



The Magazine of Centenary University

Winter 2019

CENTENARIAN



**Academics
Energized**

INSIDE SPS CHARTS A NEW COURSE

IN THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

- University News...4
- Athletics...12
- Class News and Notes...14
- Meet the Centenarian...21

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

- 2. Academics Energized**
The Strategic Design Process resulted in new academic programs that are meeting market demands.
- 8. Q&A with Elizabeth Kane**
The new head of the School of Professional Studies is charting a new course in adult education.
- 10. Home Field Advantage**
Centenary breaks ground for Our Diamond of Dreams.



A new agreement designates Centenary University an Official Educational Partner of the New York Jets.

When students in Associate Professor of Business Kathy Naasz’s social media marketing class arrived at #theVibe on Oct. 2, some virtual visitors were waiting: members of the New York Jets marketing team. Via Skype, the NFL back-office professionals chatted with Centenary University students about the team’s social media strategy. After the class, Centenary students spent the next several weeks analyzing the strategy and developing recommendations on how to improve its effectiveness.

They presented their findings to Jets management at the team’s corporate headquarters in Florham Park, N.J., on Dec. 4. “To have the opportunity to apply what they’ve learned to a real-world client like the New York Jets is very exciting,” Naasz said. “It was great for them to present on-site in the Jets boardroom, overlooking the practice field.”

This invaluable experience is just one result of a new partnership signed last fall between Centenary and the Jets. The agreement seeks to present unique learning opportunities to students through the lens of the Jets organization. The University will continue to incorporate Jets-themed projects into courses this spring, providing additional opportunities for Centenary students to work directly with Jets staff. Internship opportunities with the Jets will also offer Centenary students hands-on experience in the fast paced sports industry.

While Centenary has a well-respected sports management program, the relationship with the Jets will extend to students across a broad variety of majors, including those in Naasz’s social media marketing class.

ON THE COVER

New academic programs engage Centenary students like **Mariah Russo '19**.

HOW TO REACH US

Editorial Offices
Email
Tracey.Thompson@
CentenaryUniversity.edu
(908) 852-1400, ext. 2238

Editorial & Design Services
Erbach Communications Group

 /centenaryuniversity

 @Centenary_NJ

 /edu/centenary-university-18854

 @centenaryuniversity





For the Jets, the partnership is an opportunity to help shape future business leaders, according to New York Jets President Neil Glat. "It's an honor to begin a new partnership with such an exceptional institution," he said. "This collaboration with Centenary will help us connect with students and bring them knowledge of the industry in order to develop a new generation of leaders."

Part of that commitment centers on the new multidisciplinary course developed through the partnership. Taught by Centenary professionals in collaboration with Jets staff, it will provide students with insights into the business of professional sports franchises. The course, which is slated to debut this spring, will cover topics such as data and analytics, communication, business, sales, and social media strategies. Internships within the Jets organization will also provide hands-on training in the fast-paced sports industry.

In addition to the educational component of the agreement, the partnership brings a definite Cyclone presence to MetLife Stadium during Jets home games this season. Centenary University ads run on electronic

displays at Gang Green's home field in East Rutherford, as well as on television and radio stations that air during Jets home games, introducing millions of Jets fans to the University.

The Jets have also graciously extended the use of the Atlantic Health Jets Training Center in Florham Park, N.J., for Centenary to host programming, and will invite select Centenary students to team events. In addition, the partnership designates Centenary as a presenting partner for Jets Business Day, an event that brings high school students interested in the sports industry to MetLife Stadium to speak with various departments of the Jets.

The affiliation with the Jets elevates Cyclone pride and raises the University's profile among prospective students, according to Nora McCarthy, associate director of undergraduate admissions. "We've heard from countless prospective students and families who have now added Centenary to their list of colleges because of this partnership," McCarthy said. "They see the many benefits Centenary has to offer, including access to the New York Jets."

ACADEMICS ENERGIZED



A new initiative launched last year is transforming academics at Centenary University. The goal: to more closely align the University's offerings with emerging marketplace demands.

"One of the very first things students ask when they consider enrolling at Centenary is, 'Will I get a job after graduation?'" explained Vice President for Enrollment Management Robert L. Miller Jr. "There are extensive resources to help them explore

how employable they will be if they pursue certain areas of study. More than ever before, students and their parents are shopping for the academic programs that have been identified as 'hot' majors with promising job prospects."

As a result, Centenary has undertaken a thorough analysis of academic programs led by Amy D'Olivo, vice president for academic affairs. Starting with a broad overview, the

ongoing effort has more recently sharpened its focus on each department, tapping the knowledge of thought leaders including Centenary's faculty and industry professionals, as well as labor market predictions. The result has been the introduction of new, market-driven degree and certificate programs, as well as a new academic department.

D'Olivo said the University has been very intentional, carefully balancing its resources to create new programs that will best serve students and employers, while enhancing Centenary's strong liberal arts tradition. "Our approach is to offer new programs that we know we can do right," D'Olivo explained. "We're exploring all sorts of new academic programs and we're being very thoughtful and deliberate about which ones we choose to pursue."

The University's new major in **Medical Lab Science** is a case in point. Several years in development, the program marks the intersection between Centenary's intent to introduce new programming with an urgent need in northwestern New Jersey for trained professionals in the field. Several years ago, Atlantic Health System—which operates labs and several hospitals, including Hackettstown Medical Center—reached out to Centenary to begin discussions about the area's shortage of trained laboratory professionals.

"They were struggling to find qualified employees in this field," noted Krassi Lazarova, associate professor of physics. Several months ago, Centenary formalized a partnership with Atlantic Health, resulting in an agreement that provides unique opportunities for the University's students to complete their clinical training at Atlantic Health labs, which boast some of the world's best technologies. Centenary is also pursuing articulation agreements with several community colleges that offer two-year Medical Lab Science degrees for their graduates to continue on to Centenary to complete a bachelor's degree.

James Monks, assistant professor of biology, likens the field to sleuths who solve medical mysteries through real-time scientific inquiry. "This new major is a great example of how Centenary is responding to market pressures," he said. "The program has been designed to give students specific skills and abilities that they will use in the marketplace."

In Centenary's Department of Business, a new **4+1 MBA** introduced this year allows students to complete both an undergraduate degree in business and an MBA in five years, while a concentration, minor, and certificate program in **Sustainable Practices** incorporates business and natural science into a seamless emphasis on environmentally responsible and ethical practices.

Michael Russell, assistant professor of economics and director of Centenary's new Center for Sustainability, noted that sustainability has become increasingly relevant in today's business environment. "We're seeing a push toward the green economy," he explained. "Shareholders are asking what steps companies are taking to implement sustainable business practices. In the absence of leadership on the federal level, companies are now taking the lead on advancing climate goals."

Collaboration between academic departments has been key in developing some of the programs. A new department—**Communication, Writing, and Design**—takes a unique approach to rapid changes in the field of communication. Centenary's department integrates writing, graphics, film, and video production into one department because, in the real world, professionals from these disciplines create content across digital, print, audio, and video platforms to engage and entertain. Centenary's English, communication, and fine arts faculty collaborated in the department's creation, according to D'Olivo. "In this case, our faculty came up with a very innovative approach to careers in communication. Through this process, we've been trying to remove barriers and encourage faculty to think more creatively."

"We're exploring all sorts of new academic programs and we're being very thoughtful and deliberate about which ones we choose to pursue."

That's just what happened when faculty members in mathematics and business joined forces to create a new concentration, minor, and certificate in **Data Analytics**, offered through the Department of Business. Linda Ritchie and David Buhanan, both assistant professors of mathematics, keep a sharp eye on the job market. In job postings, they've seen escalating demand for professionals who can use data to gain meaningful insights into market trends and customer behaviors that drive global business. In fact, experts have cited data analytics as one of the fastest growing fields in the United States.

Also on tap is a new data analytics certificate offered through the School of Professional Studies. "It's important for professionals to be trained to make decisions and support those decisions with data," said Ritchie. The mathematical and computing skills woven into the program translate well into all business environments, agreed Buhanan. "There are very few areas where you don't need these kinds of skills today," he explained. "This is an important program that puts Centenary on the map in the technical realm, where we haven't had a footprint before."

Enactus Places in Global Challenge



Centenary University's Enactus team took an impressive third place at the Ford Mobility Innovation Challenge this fall in Palo Alto, Calif. Competing against teams from the United States, Brazil, Morocco, and Ghana, the Cyclones took home a \$5,000 grant from Ford Motor Company's philanthropic arm, Ford Fund, in the contest.

An international organization, Enactus encourages entrepreneurial, student-led projects that empower people

and communities. In a proposal submitted to Ford in August, Centenary's team described its concept for Shieldz Wearable Technologies, a wristband that warns drivers of fatigue through sound and vibration. The Cyclones were one of six finalists invited to travel to Ford's Greenfield Labs to compete for the prizes.

Mariah Russo '19, Enactus co-president, said participating with the team has opened her eyes to the difference that students can make. "It's amazing because Centenary is a small school, but we see what an impact we could have on the community," explained Russo, a business major with triple concentrations in marketing, social media marketing, and management. "The opportunities I've been given through Enactus have been absolutely amazing."

Linda Poisseroux, Centenary business professor and director of Enactus, called the finish "a proud moment for Centenary University." "This team was highly motivated to compete for this grant," she said. "They displayed a tremendous amount of commitment in preparing the grant application, script, and presentation. It was amazing to see their professionalism and energy shine through during the presentation."

On the Air



WNTI News Director Jack Reinhard '19 is a regular panelist this year on the weekly PBS39 television series "Reporters Roundtable." He joins students from other universities to discuss topics of local, regional, and national concern. In addition to Centenary University, "Reporters Roundtable" features students from universities including Temple, Lehigh, and Drexel. A Centenary communication major, Reinhard is already an award-winning journalist who has worked for the news website InsideWarren.com. His work was recognized earlier this year by the Garden State Journalists Association.

Roman Mile

A trio of Centenary University students traveled to Rome for eight days in September to assist with the running of Il Miglio di Roma (the Mile of Rome), a series of races held in the Italian capital. The students—Amanda Vita '20, David VanArtsdalen '19, and Rachel Natoli '20—also presented a session on the link between sports and psychology at the event, which drew 500 runners, including VanArtsdalen and David Perricone, associate professor of sports management.



REFRAMING TILLIE



Maryann McFadden

The sexual assault and murder of Centenary Collegiate Institute kitchen maid Tillie Smith on campus in 1886 is woven into the history of Centenary University and Hackettstown. The crime sparked national outrage. Anguished local residents arranged for Smith's body to be buried in a prominent spot in Union Cemetery, beneath a monument bearing the epitaph, "She Died in Defense of her Honor."

Over the years, the horror surrounding the crime began to fade, gradually replaced by

lighthearted accounts of ghost sightings, Halloween "Tillie walks," and a former campus café that was named for Smith. Publications such as *Reader's Digest* and *Weird New Jersey* have touted Centenary as a haunted campus.

Now, the University wants to reframe the way people think about the murder. "It happened a long time ago, but the reality remains that a young woman was sexually assaulted and murdered on Centenary's campus," explained Kerry Mullins, vice president of student life and dean of students. "As a University, we have to take a strong stand on how we memorialize violent incidents, no matter how long ago they occurred."

The effort echoes Centenary's renewed commitment to supporting contemporary survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking through a new \$300,000 grant from the Department of Justice (see sidebar). Plans are now underway to rethink the way Smith is regarded on campus and to honor her memory.

That's good news for many, including Maryann McFadden, author of a recent book called *The Cemetery Keeper's Wife*. Published last May, the book explores the murder and national fascination with the crime through the lens of a 20th century woman who happens upon the monument honoring Smith.

"We have come so far in regard to sexual assault in the past decades, and yet Tillie Smith's brutal assault and murder have never been fully acknowledged," McFadden said. "I am greatly moved that my historical novel, which finally gives her a voice, has become one of the catalysts to change Tillie's legacy, hopefully opening the door to more discussion about sexual assault on college campuses."

Federal Grant Raises Awareness of Sexual Assault

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a \$300,000 grant to Centenary University to institute Cyclone Strong, a new initiative to strengthen awareness, prevention, and on-campus services regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking (SADVS).

The three-year grant will fund a new Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team at Centenary, as well as the hiring of a full-time program coordinator to oversee and manage the initiative. "This funding is an important step toward preventing SADVS on our campus, and will help us to promote awareness and provide comprehensive support to survivors," said Kerry Mullins, vice president of student life and dean of students at Centenary University.

"This funding is an important step toward preventing SADVS on our campus and will help us to promote awareness and provide comprehensive support to survivors."

The CCR will expand services for survivors, including those offered by Centenary University personnel and through community partners such as the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County (DASACC), a regional SADVS service provider. Through Cyclone Strong, Centenary will provide a dedicated space staffed by DASACC on its Hackettstown campus with specific hours for survivors to receive confidential services. The grant also aims to extend an expanded program of awareness, prevention, and bystander intervention training to all Centenary students.

"To ensure the safety of our students at school, we must do everything we can to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence," said U.S. Rep Josh Gottheimer (D-5th), who was instrumental in assisting Centenary to secure this grant.

WALKING TALL



Representatives of New Jersey's equine industry, including many Centenary University alumni, turned out to the Equestrian Center on Oct. 6 for the dedication of a new Kraft horse walker. The state-of-the-art facility offers therapeutic exercise for injured horses, as well as a deeper level of instruction for equine students. Funding for the project was provided through gifts to the Equestrian Center Enhancement Project, which supports capital projects that enrich Centenary's renowned equine studies program.



Advancing Enrollment

Centenary University's Class of 2022 has already made a strong impression on campus. This year's first-year students comprise one of the largest incoming classes in recent years, demonstrating that prospective high school students view Centenary as a university of choice.

"More and more students and their parents are recognizing Centenary's commitment to each student's success, providing a challenging academic environment, while at the same time offering the support needed to succeed," explained Robert L. Miller Jr., vice president for enrollment management and marketing. "Combined with a rich co-curricular experience and an affordable price, Centenary is the right choice for many students."

Here are a few of the Class of 2022's impressive gains:



increase in first-year enrollment



2nd-largest

incoming class in 8 years



12.9%

increase in new undergraduates*

**includes traditional day-session first-year and transfer students*



12

first-year students named to the
new Honors Program



with

Elizabeth Kane

new head of the School of Professional Studies

Tell us about your career.

I worked in banking, but took a 10-year service break to have a family. When I returned to the job market, a lifelong friend recommended me for a position with the Saint Peter's University School of Professional and Continuing Studies. He thought it would be a good fit because of my shareholder relations and public relations experience. I stayed there for 12 years, and eventually became the dean.

The thing I really enjoy about adult education is that it's probably the only arm of most universities that has both academic and financial oversight. Most colleges don't look at day session revenue and tuition by department, because that's very hard to segregate. But adult education is generally per credit, so there's direct accountability. I'm able to use my academic, business, and creative skills on the job every day.

What's the core mission of SPS?

The basic business of any university is degree completion, so first and foremost, Centenary's School of Professional Studies

(SPS) offers degree completion to undergraduate and graduate students. Approximately 35 percent of adults in America never finished their undergraduate degree, so that's a big focus for us.

We've found that what an adult needs to learn is very different from what an 18-year-old traditional student needs to learn. They're already in the workforce, and they're looking for competencies that will help them on the job. Maybe oral communication isn't a strong point, or they're not comfortable in front of a computer screen on Skype or in Webex conferences. Many SPS students have been middle managers who have worked in the business world for a long time. They may return to college for a course or two, and some stay to earn a certificate or master's degree. SPS wants to be known in this area for delivering the competencies and attributes that employers are looking for, and that employees need to get ahead.

Describe your goals for SPS.

There is a five-year strategic plan for SPS to grow enrollment, so that's a high priority. We'll accomplish this through several

avenues—enhancing our recruitment, developing new, market-driven academic programs, and partnering with corporations to provide core competencies for their employees. I’m particularly excited about our new accelerated MBA in finance launching this spring, which will enable students to earn their degree in just 14 months. We also offer a wonderful social media marketing certificate, and we’re adding certificates in data analytics, human resources, and health care management. These are in-demand skills in today’s job market.

What is CITE?

We’ve established the Centenary Institute for Talent Excellence (CITE) to assist our corporate partners in developing talent within their organizations. We have an instructional designer, a faculty member here at SPS who builds curriculum, so we can partner with corporations to tailor every educational relationship. They tell us what they need, and we’ll design it. That goes beyond the cookie-cutter approach followed by most universities, and it’s already been a success. One company has invited us back to train employees on business presentation skills.

Adult students can face big challenges.

Time management is the biggest stressor. Thinking about juggling college courses with a job, and maybe a family, can seem daunting. So we’re now emphasizing the certificate-to-degree path. Sometimes, it’s a little easier if you do it in pieces—get a certificate first, then an associate degree, and then maybe a bachelor’s. We’re big believers in small victories.

We’ve also made lots of adjustments to accommodate their busy schedules. Our campus in Parsippany is intentionally set up as an almost one-stop campus. Enrollment, advisement, faculty services, workshops, and tutoring are all right here. All of this supports adult students while they’re furthering their education. Before I came here, someone told me that there’s a Centenary way—to put the student first all the time. That’s what SPS has done.

How does technology help?

We definitely leverage technology to support the unique needs of our adult learners. Centenary isn’t an online university, but all of our classes have an online component. SPS students may not have to come to class every single week. For most of our classes, students come one week, and are online the next. Another real strength of our program is #theVibe, which is located on our Parsippany campus. That capability will play a central role in our plan to reinvigorate our Edison Learning Center. Through #theVibe, we can now link our campuses and enrich our programming at both sites.

What are the plans for the two SPS campuses?

Parsippany and Edison are similar in many ways, primarily in mission, but there are also some important differences. In Parsippany, we get a real mix of students, who are pursuing associate and undergraduate degrees, as well as certificates and master’s degrees. We’re developing ways to grow those programs. The environment is wonderful, with beautiful views from all the classrooms. There’s something that’s very relaxing and conducive to studying there. That’s important after adult students have worked all day.

At our Edison Learning Center, the market and demographic are a little different. With the Metropark train station right around the corner, it’s more of a commuter population. That area has a high number of people who already hold bachelor’s degrees, so master’s programs would work really well there. It’s a space we haven’t focused on recently, but we’re working to reinvigorate our programming there.

Does your career path surprise you?

In a way, it does. When I took my first job in higher education, I was delighted to be back in the workforce, but I had no idea where it was going to lead. I think it’s a lesson learned: “Never turn down an opportunity if it sounds interesting. Don’t let fear stand in your way. You never know where you’re going to end up.” That’s exactly what happened to me. I trusted a friend, got into a new field, and now I’m at SPS. There’s a sense of pride and purpose here that I truly love. We’re not just a place for adult students to get a degree, we’re Centenary University. I think that’s why our alumni have an affinity toward SPS. It’s a point of pride.

Elizabeth Kane is associate vice president of adult, corporate, & online education. She is responsible for nontraditional learning programs at Centenary University’s School of Professional Studies. Kane earned a bachelor of science in finance and an MBA from Seton Hall University. 

Fast Facts

1. BOTTOM LINE PRO

Former banker. Sharp eye for the bottom line.

2. ACCIDENTAL ACADEMIC

Took 10-year career hiatus to raise a family. Close friend knew that Kane’s job skills would translate well to higher education, and recommended her for a university job.

3. WORDS TO LIVE BY

“It’s not about where you start. It’s where you finish that counts. It’s a great lesson for adult students—and one I learned in my own career.”

Home Field Advantage

Centenary University broke ground on Our Diamond of Dreams, the new Cyclone baseball complex.





When Steven M. Somers played high school baseball, he stole home 18 times. It was a feat that took tenacity and resourcefulness—characteristics that have defined his career. Owner and president of Vigon International, Somers and his wife, Sharon, are the lead donors of Centenary University’s new baseball complex.

“Baseball, for me, was the inspiration,” Somers said at the facility’s Oct. 19 groundbreaking. “It’s my dream to inspire a Hackettstown High School student, or a Centenary University student, to go out on the field and get their confidence and inspiration, and ultimately, to come to the realization that the greatest thing in life is doing what other people say you can’t do.”

Dubbed Our Diamond of Dreams, the state-of-the-art complex will provide a home field for Cyclone baseball, the University’s largest NCAA Division III sport. The field will also be available for use by local recreational leagues and high schools, including Hackettstown High School.

The project is also funded through a challenge grant from the Reeves Foundation, as well as a grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, a joint initiative of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, which recognized the opportunities the complex can provide for local youth baseball and softball organizations. In addition, numerous individual and corporate donors provided support, including Steven B. Kalafer, chairman of the Somerset Patriots and Flemington Car and Truck Country.

“Centenary is a great school, but maybe people haven’t looked at us the way they should,” Kalafer said. “Well, guess what? People are looking at us now.”

Baseball Coach Scott Kushner noted that the new field is a valuable recruiting tool that will enrich student life: “This field will help energize and enhance the campus culture because it will provide us with what we have sought for so long—a true home to showcase the efforts and talents of our Cyclones.”





Head Wrestling Coach John Garriques and his family

Pay It Forward

On a Friday night this fall, Cyclone wrestlers and baseball players arrived at Hackettstown's Trinity Church to pack food and load trucks bound for programs to feed the hungry. Their one-night effort fed more than 5,000 people across New Jersey.

"It was an awesome experience," recalled All-American wrestler **Etiini Udott '19**. "I like giving back to the community and

helping people in need. It also brings us together as student-athletes."

The effort is part of a larger initiative at Centenary University to increase community engagement through organizations like the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). SAAC's adviser, Head Wrestling Coach John Garriques, encourages student-athletes to choose service projects that resonate with their personal values. "Community service has to come from them," Garriques explained. "We never make it mandatory, because they have to believe in it themselves."

In Garriques, student-athletes have a strong role model. The civic-minded coach was recently honored by the Joseph H. Firth Youth Center in Phillipsburg with its first-ever proclamation for founding a free youth wrestling club serving approximately 50 elementary school children. Jeff Russo, the center's president, wrote: "The manner in which Coach Garriques and the team conducted themselves was inspiring. In addition to conducting this world-class clinic, Coach Garriques and the team conveyed many positive messages and life lessons to the kids."

The club is one of many ways Garriques has given back to the two communities he called home growing up, Hackettstown and Phillipsburg. In organizing the Phillipsburg program, Garriques tapped the talents of his Centenary wrestlers, including **J.T. Valley '19**. "Coach always talks about giving back to the community and the enjoyment it brings," Valley explained. "It's really about helping the community." Udott, who also volunteered, added, "When I was a kid, we never had any free practices. This gives the kids someone to look up to and follow."



Josh Sibbles coaches youth wrestlers

When he mentors SAAC members, Garriques shares the philosophy he imparts to his wrestlers: be humble. "Don't do anything for a pat on the back," he said. "I believe in karma. What you put out there, you're going to get back."



Cyclone champions

CSAC Champs!

The women's soccer team capped an outstanding season, capturing the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) championship with a 2-0 win over Cedar Crest College on Nov. 3. **Amanda Benoit '19** was named Tournament MVP, picking up an assist on the game's first goal and breaking the CSAC record for career assists.

Head Coach Kevin Davies' Cyclones finished the regular season 11-7, and a perfect 8-0 mark in CSAC play, earning the team the number one seed in the tournament. Other CSAC accolades this season went to **Chloe Christopher '20**, who earned CSAC Player of the Year honors—the third player in program history to win that title. In addition, **Sam Bombardiere '19** took home the CSAC Defensive Player of the Year award, the second consecutive year a Centenary player has won it.

Christopher, Bombardiere, and Benoit were joined on the First Team All-CSAC by defender **Jessica Vargas '21**, and midfielder **Kara LaPolice '19**. Defender **Raeanna Cope '20** and goalkeeper **Rachel Colt '22** were named Second Team All-CSAC, while defender **Sandy Sosa '19**, forward **Amanda Lebelt '22**, and midfielder **Stephanie Williams '20** all earned All-CSAC Honorable Mention honors.

Cyclone Standouts

For the men's soccer team, goalkeeper **Devon Warne '19** hit a career milestone this season, notching his 300th career save in an Oct. 17 contest at Bryn Athyn. He is just the second player in program history to reach that mark. First year Head Coach Josh Spivack led the team to an 8-9 record overall and a 4-2 mark in CSAC play, with the Cyclones advancing to the semifinals of the CSAC Tournament. Also honored by the CSAC were **Devon Warne '19**, **Josh Weiss '19**, **Matt Miller '20**, and **Eric Nugent '21**, all of whom earned First Team All-CSAC accolades. Named Third Team All-CSAC were **Sebastian Hernandez '19**, **William Squares '19**, **Daisuke Suzuki '21**, **Besnik Hadzovic '22**, and **Jared Miele '19**. **Chris Cameron '19** earned a spot on the CSAC All-Sportsmanship team.

In women's cross country, **Cassidy Haller '20** placed fifth at the CSAC Championship, earning First Team All-CSAC honors. Teammate **Julia White '19** and **Justin Staszak '20** of the men's team earned spots on the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Teams, as did volleyball player **Zaairah Lamothe '22**.



Seasoned New AD: Travis Spencer

New Athletic Director Travis Spencer has big plans for Centenary University Athletics. A proven administrator, he brings 18 years of collegiate athletic experience to the Cyclones, with an extensive background in business development, sales and marketing, fundraising, and special events. He's worked at both Lehigh University and the University of Scranton, where he also coached wrestling and assisted with planning and running two conference championships and a Division III National Wrestling Tournament. "I am excited to bring my lengthy experience in intercollegiate athletics as a player, coach, and administrator to Centenary University," Spencer said. "I am confident that I can contribute in keeping this athletics department progressing forward."

Let us know what's new!

Send us your news and keep up to date with classmates. Class News and Notes may be edited to reflect *The Centenarian's* guidelines and space constraints.

1947

Mary Ellen Welburn Collins

Riverpoint Unit 705
235 East River Drive
East Hartford, CT 06108-5019

Mary Ellen Welburn Collins writes:

"For more than 20 years, Tom and I have lived in a high-rise condo overlooking the Connecticut River and the Hartford skyline. We love it and wish we could stay, but at 91 and 95 we know we should move on. We toured a place recently where **Betty Thorpe Bidwell** also lives and it looks great. It is closer to where my son and his wife live. Who knows?

"We have a son and daughter, and six grandchildren—two with careers in New York City, one near here, another in Chicago, and another in Georgia near Russia, who is in the Peace Corps. We see most of them often, even though they all have active, interesting lives. The one in Chicago just gave us a second great-grandchild. Their first is a girl, who is now 4, and now they have a baby boy! Another grandson was married last November and is hoping to add another great-grandchild for us soon.

"We are doing well for our ages. Tom retired from his law practice two years ago and now has short-term memory loss. But I am happy to tell him 10 times a day what day it is—at least he's here. I hope my note will spur my classmates to catch us up on their lives."

1949

Florence Austermuhl Larson

619-955-3995
2773 Dahlia Ave.
San Diego, CA 92154
florenceclarson2@aol.com

Florence Austermuhl Larson writes:

"I enjoy many church activities and playing Scrabble with friends. My son and daughter-in-law are taking me on a Caribbean cruise and my sister is coming also."

Peggy Bolte Castle writes: "After 53 years, I have finally decided to take a

back seat in the real estate world by the end of 2018. I made a move to a retirement center in Timonium, Md., and am so enjoying my new life at Mercy Ridge. I enjoy the relaxing daily happy hour and food with friends, and am planning to devote more time to oil painting. I also still enjoy a special week each summer at Rehoboth Beach, Del., with 17 members of my family. I communicate with **Laura Lecher Woodcock**, who enjoys living in the Waverly Heights community with two other alumnae, **Anne Middleton Flood** and **Carol Minster Pendergrass**. I also hear from **Barbara Bensing Terstappen**, who enjoys bridge and the party activities in her retirement home in Naples, Fla."

Deborah Ettinger Moss writes: "When one moves into a continuing care type of place, time moves very quickly. There are plenty of activities—I do lots of bridge, sometimes rummy, gin, and Mexican train. Making friends is important and people can have pets. My Papillon is 14 years old and probably won't be with me for too many more years. I do not get to see my kids much. My daughter works from her house answering legal questions from apartment house owners. My son is still practicing obstetrics, and he and his wife just got back from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and an African safari."

Nancy Hendee Pain traveled to Iceland. She also started water painting classes, which she really likes.

Nancy Morell McClatchie is living in an independent living place that has dancing. She attends a concert one day a week with a friend and enjoys her grandchildren. Her sons are both doing well and one has taken over the family business. The other is an electrical engineer.

Audrey Henn Nawoschik enjoys living in her own home; she lives on the first floor and her son lives upstairs. She gets around pretty well on her own and cares for many of her grandchildren. Every summer, she goes to another son's three-story house in Lavallette, N.J., and has a reunion with her whole family.

Carol Brown Robinson went to Lake

Tahoe to celebrate her 90th birthday. In June, she attended a niece's wedding in Oregon. She will be with her daughter for Thanksgiving.

1955

Eleanor Rausch Greene

772-692-0329
2226 NW Fork Road
Stuart, FL 34994

Eleanor Rausch Greene writes: "While unpacking after relocating to a new address, I found my Centenary blazer. It brought back wonderful memories and the happy times, like when President and Mrs. Seay addressed the students as 'my girls,' and, as co-chair of the Orientation Committee, I was asked by Dean Hight to memorize the picture book of the incoming freshmen so each girl felt welcomed.

"I'd love it if anyone from the Class of 1955 can take over my position as class correspondent, or at least help out, as I have developed challenges with my eyesight. Please reach out to me at my new address."

Joan Parker Stephenson writes: "After I graduated from Centenary, I married my sweetheart, Jack. We were married for 62 years before he passed away last year. Jack was a business owner and innovator. He designed and produced camping equipment. We have four children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Another great-grandchild is due in December.

"I enjoy singing in choirs and taking pictures. I am the photographer for the Opechee Garden Club and I take pictures of gardens and club programs. I also go on trips to different areas to see floral arrangements, etc., for our yearly scrapbook. If you have time, how about writing me and letting me know what you are doing?"

1959

Ann Hufnagel Rafferty

238 Ash Point Drive
Owls Head, ME 04854-3522
annrafferty24@gmail.com

Ann Hufnagel Rafferty writes: "I have had lunch frequently with my friend, **Priscilla Anderson Hare '58**, which is always fun. She lives in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, but has a summer place in Owls Head near where I live. We have known each other since college and managed to keep in touch all these years.

"I hear from **Deb Johnson Grider** once in a while. She was a good friend and roommate, and we have kept in touch all these years. But she lives in California and it is a bit far away, so we do not get to see each other very often.

"I am still busy volunteering at the

library, my church, and the Historical Society of Owls Head; it's fun and keeps me out of trouble."

1961

Joyce Fierro Velzy

1253 NW Bentley Circle Apt A
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
772-873-9008
joyvelz@juno.com

Joyce Fierro Velzy writes: "Since Bob and I live most of the year in Florida and our kids live in New York, we were excited to have one of our sons and his family meet us in Walt Disney World for a week's visit during our granddaughter's Easter vacation. Unfortunately, a few days before, Bob had to have emergency pacemaker surgery. The kids drove the two-hour trip to see him in the hospital, which was the best medicine for both of us. While we were in New York in July, we had an 'Almost-90' surprise birthday party for Bob ('almost' because his actual birthday is in December, but we couldn't count on nice weather in New York in December). In August, I had back surgery, though not as extensive as 12 years ago; our second son visited, which made for a speedier recovery. It's really great to hear from our classmates, though several emails to classmates have been returned recently. Please let the Alumni Office or me know when you or someone you know changes her email."

Deborah Sisbower Lingwood sent a birthday card to Joyce from her summer home in Maine. Deborah writes: "The weather here in Maine has been too hot. I'm grateful that my recent rotator cuff surgery went well, and that I'm not any the worse for wear. I go to physical therapy twice a week. I can't wait for the OK from my doctor to kayak once again." Deborah also reports that she, Elden, and their two daughters—they call themselves "The Core Four"—had a wonderful trip to Acadia National Park for several days. Their bigger news is that they just welcomed their second great-grandchild.

Sue Fippen Scattergood writes: "We survived Hurricane Florence, which sat over Wilmington, N.C., for several days. It was the third 'F' hurricane (after Fran and Floyd) to come in the very same location. Our beach house was just south of the eye, so we were fortunate that the wind came from the land protecting our dune. Our house weathered the storm with no damage, but I keep thinking it might be time to sell."

Molly Thompson Power Torgeson Balzer returned to Minnesota/Wisconsin in August to see her family and friends. She writes: "We five siblings

were together up on Lake Superior for our reunion. We laughed, told stories, went through old memorabilia, and then I read excerpts from my 1955 diary. Every page was full of boys' names. We even dialed up an old boyfriend in Texas for a chat. In early September, I attended the private opening of my friend, Siah Armajani's, show, 'A Retrospective Exhibition Covering Six Decades,' at the Walker Art Institute in Minneapolis. It was spectacular. When the show leaves Minneapolis in December, it will go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In late October, George and I will take our yearly trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to celebrate our 24 years of marital bliss."

Marilyn Parsons Wortman (aka Micki) will be traveling to Iceland with a group from Martha's Vineyard. She writes: "We are 14 travelers looking for trouble and fun. I also visited Hilton Head Island to see my brother, and several other spots along the way, on a road trip. We are still at Martha's Vineyard year-round, so come and visit."

Last November, **Janice Kilgore Jobin** and her husband, Rich, got together for a wonderful two-day visit with **Sue Witte Martyn** and her husband, Jimmy, who live near Pensacola, Fla. On the same trip, they visited Rich's sister and brother-in-law in Destin, Fla. Janice writes: "My visit with Sue was like we were back in our dorm room. We hadn't seen one another for over 30 years. The years just melted away and we were like old roommates again. It couldn't have been a better visit. I thank Centenary for giving Sue to me as a wonderful roommate."

Susie (Skooz) Pederson Lamberti writes: "I just returned from a wonderful visit to Cape Cod to **Nancy (Giz) Loewinger's** home, joined by **Ann (Pottsie) Pascal Marquardt**. We're usually joined by **Bobbi Bidwell Gallagher** and **Gail (Skelly) Scagliarini**, but unfortunately, they were unable to make the trip this year (although very much missed). Giz, Pottsie, and I spent many hours reminiscing about our days in the Big Six on South Hall 59 years ago. Despite all the years in between, we seem to be able to go right back to the dormitory room and all feel very blessed to share our lasting friendship."



Pictured left to right: Susie, Ann, and Nancy

Nancy Heimert Zabka writes: "I just had a wonderful trip to the East Coast for a visit with my sister and family in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Afterwards, I rented a car and drove up to Hilton Head Island to see my Centenary roommate, **Missy Westmaas Bell**, and **Judi VanWettering Whitmore**, both residents of the island. Vacationing there with their husbands during that same time were **Mary Ellen (Honey) Bloys Fisher**, **Sandy Holroyd Carboni**, and **Carolee Clark Norton**, so naturally, we all got together and added new memories to our almost 60 years of friendship."



Pictured left to right: Nancy, Van, Honey, Sandy, Carolee, and Missy

1962

Judi Braddock Andrews
805-402-5528
405 N. Interlachen Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
Judiand1635@yahoo.com

Judi Braddock Andrews writes: "My husband, George, and I recently returned from an Abercrombie & Kent Greek Isle cruise aboard the Le Laperouse, the newest ship of the French cruise line, Ponant. We began with three days in Athens, followed by stops in Crete, Santorini, Rhodes, Simi, Mykonos, and Soros. It was truly a magical adventure. I always love hearing from Centenary sisters. Please share your news."

Linda Johnson Heini writes: "I stopped in Montclair, N.J., this summer and had lunch with **Betsy Burrell Blackburn '63**. It's always nice to reconnect."

Judy Blakeslee Hadden is living in Rotonda, Fla., and enjoys being close to her eight grandkids and seven great-grandchildren. She and **Judi Braddock Andrews**, who also lives in Florida, are hopeful that they can meet halfway for lunch one day soon.

1963

Ellen Fiencke Whitaker
315-692-4750
7630 Somerset Lane
Manilus, NY 13104
elw2143@dccc.edu

Ellen Fiencke Whitaker writes: "Fifty-five years after graduating from Centenary, many of us love a comfortable routine and happily look forward to things we already enjoy. Not so with **Judi Coles**

Inspiring Action



Immigration advocate
Cinthia Osorio '18 spoke at
Fall Convocation on Sept 5.



Special Birthday Gift

Claire Couch Bosee '54 believes that it's better to give than to receive. So every five years, she hosts a big birthday bash, inviting friends to celebrate her special day. In lieu of gifts, she asks that attendees support the Centenary University Tea Dance Scholarship. At this year's tea dance, held at the Yale Club in New York, Claire (left) met with scholarship recipient Analise Gianoulis '20, who is majoring in elementary education with a certification in special education.



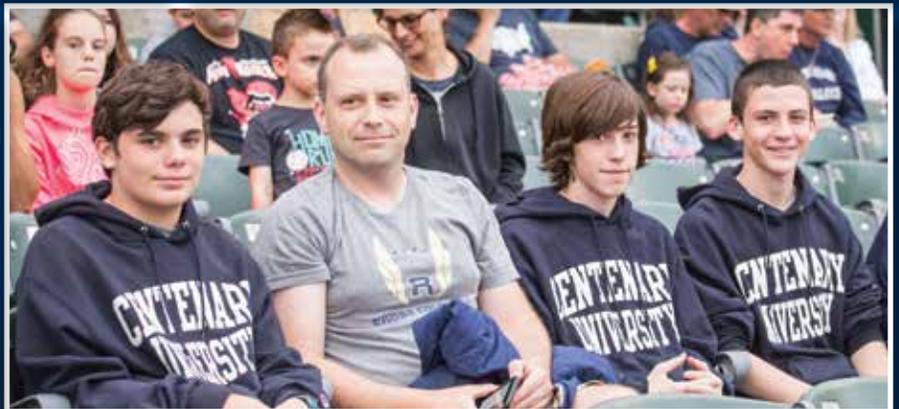
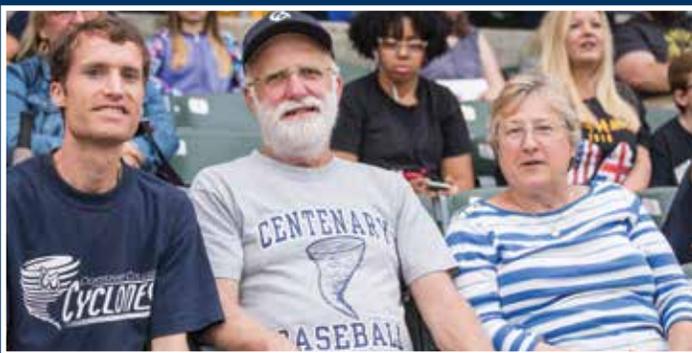
Alumni & Family Weekend

Cyclones came home to Hackettstown for Alumni & Family Weekend, Oct. 5-7. Centenary graduates sipped wine and tasted gourmet chocolates, took part in athletic contests, and celebrated the Cyclone's 30th birthday at the annual event. Members of the Class of 1968 were feted to honor the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Patriots Day

Centenary University alumni and friends spent a night at the ballpark on June 23 cheering on the Somerset Patriots.

Centenary University alumni, students, and staff joined Patriots' personnel on the field for fun contests and games between innings, while Centenary Trustee David Johnson threw out the first pitch. The game highlighted Centenary's partnership with the Somerset Patriots, which has fostered unique learning opportunities and internships for the University's students.



Zieg and her husband, John. Their *joie de vivre* is spontaneity, the open road and the unknown. This spontaneity first revealed itself years ago, when their two children were just starting high school, and John called from a California business trip. It was winter, and he was sitting outdoors on a sundeck. Judi had just come in from the cold and slush of their New Jersey home. Within weeks, they sold their furniture and their home and moved to Newport Beach, Calif.

"Fast-forward 28 years, with both Judi and John retired. They still loved the unexpected, so, once again, they sold their furniture and their house and began a journey of spontaneity, taking off at a moment's notice, eventually traveling to 48 of the 50 states. (Alaska and Hawaii were the only two they did not visit.) They estimate they have stayed at 230 motels over their last six years of traveling.

"Some mornings, when they wake up they have no idea where they will end up; they just go. As a result, they have ended up at many interesting and beautiful places. While traveling in Utah, they passed a sign reading 'Canyonlands National Park.' They had never heard of this park and wondered why, because it was so incredibly beautiful. While traveling on Route 66 west of Amarillo, Texas, they passed by Cadillac Ranch, where 10 caddies, all painted in psychedelic colors, were half-buried, nose-down, in the dirt. Another time they were in the Florida Keys, at the southernmost part of the east coast, so they decided—on the spur-of-the-moment—to drive to the northeastern tip of the U.S., Eastport, Maine. Still another time, they found themselves in Nashville, Ga., so they decided to drive to Nashville Tenn., 450 miles away. When asked why, Judi replied, 'Because we could.'

"Their travels have included most of our national parks—Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and many others. They have bicycled through the Garden of the Gods and toured the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, seen Elvis' home in Memphis and the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock, Texas, and outsmarted a tornado.

"At the beginning of this year, they were traveling through Mena, Ark., and stopped at the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge. There on the wall, to Judi's shock, was a plaque that read, 'In 1940, Centenary College acquired this property for summer college courses.' It wasn't our Centenary, however, but a liberal arts college located in Shreveport, La., also affiliated with the Methodist Church.

"Fortunately, their health has been

good. During the late fall, they always return to the Newport Beach area and rent a house or an apartment to be near their children and grandchildren for the holidays and keep doctor and dentist appointments. They love being with their son, daughter, and five grandchildren. Judi writes, 'It doesn't matter how enjoyable our travels are, most of all we look forward to arriving back in Southern California to be together with them again.'"

1969

Elizabeth "Betsy" Braun Andreini-Thomas
239-262-3837
1784 22nd Ave. NE
Naples, FL 34120
ebandreini@comcast.net

Betsy Braun Andreini-Thomas writes: "I stay in touch via Facebook with **Elizabeth Van Ripper**, who is a realtor in Sarasota, Fla., **Lee Cantor Blask**, a property manager in Houston, Texas, and **Linda Rudnik Liberty** in Cape Cod. Lee was profoundly affected by Hurricane Harvey last year, as I was by Hurricane Irma.

I hear from **Christine Johnson Dahdah '70**. We have been friends since Centenary and from working summers at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, thanks to Bette Rhodes and Abbe Rutledge, our Centenary physical education instructors, who taught tennis at the River Club in Kennebunkport in the summer.

"My classmates and I are turning 70 next year. So grateful for my launch into life from the streets of Hackettstown about 50 years ago. Please see my profile pic with other class officers on my Facebook page (Elizabeth Betsy Braun Andreini)."

1972

Karen Clark Blane
901-854-4779
1885 Penshurst Drive
Collierville, TN 38017-9107
kblane@comcast.net

Karen Clark Blane writes: "I would love to hear from anyone from the class of '72. I imagine a lot of you are now retired and have more time to let me know how you are doing.

"I retired last year after 20 years working for our church. Our four children are grown with families of their own. I now take care of our ninth grandchild during the day. Don and I will celebrate our 45th anniversary in December. We finally landed outside of Memphis, Tenn., in 1994. I'd be so delighted to hear from you and catch up."

1975

Carolyn Holt Miksch
2180 Atlantic Coast Court
Lewes, DE 19958
mikschc@hotmail.com

Carolyn Holt Miksch writes: "My husband, Gary, and I have been married 43 years. We retired to Delaware three years ago and love it. Life here is totally different, only for the better. We still see family and some friends from New Jersey. All of us have come from so many areas that we have bonded like a family, because our families are not close by. That is OK. I leave you with a Delaware saying: 'Lower, slower Delaware' or 'LSD.' We move slower here and that is OK."

1988

Connie Hart Sjosward
973-815-1876
106 Ridgewood Road
Clifton, NJ 07012
cjzs@aol.com

Connie Hart Sjosward writes: "In August, I had the pleasure of hosting my home for a few days to one of my Sigma sisters, **Chris Abel Lofstead**, who resides in Wheeling, W.V., but came back to her home state of New Jersey to visit and catch up. Our conversations seemed as though we picked up right where we left off 30 years ago. While on her visit, we traveled to Asbury, N.J., and met up with another Sigma sister, **Sheree Severini Fittin '89**. Sheree planned a surprise visit with fellow sisters, **Tami Abbott Horan '96**, who was Chris' 'little Sigma sister,' and **Kelly Erving '87**. Tami lives in nearby Rumson and Kelly lives in Asbury. It was a wonderful surprise for both Chris and me. We spent the afternoon laughing and reminiscing, which turned into an evening of sharing the latest news in our current lives. It was such a great day hanging out with my fellow sisters. I look forward to the next mini reunion."



Pictured left to right: Connie Hart Sjosward, Chris Abel Lofstead, Tami Abbott Horan, Sheree Severini Fittin, and Kelly Erving

1994

Michelle Brennan Abbate
973-729-8107
5 Windy Bush Lane
Sparta, NJ 07871

michelle.abbate@sparta.org

Michelle Brennan Abbate writes: "This year my daughter started ninth grade at my old high school. She made the JV field hockey team and has earned her Girl Scout Silver Award. I have been extremely busy as her unpaid Uber driver. I teach kindergarten and mentor other teachers. I absolutely love it! I hope that everyone is well and I hope to hear from you soon."

1995

Heather Bush Loven
973-398-0691
216 Carentan Road
Hopatcong, NJ 07843-1801
missmerlot1@yahoo.com

Roberto Mendez writes: "I was recently appointed as the director of special services at Palisades Park Public Schools in New Jersey. I have been in the field of special education for the past 18 years. After graduating from Centenary with a degree in psychology, I attained my Master of Arts in administration and supervision from Montclair State University. I have completed one year of coursework toward my doctorate in educational leadership at Kean University. I am extremely passionate about special education and providing the most appropriate educational services that individually address students' overall development. I am very excited about having the opportunity to lead a department and work collaboratively with the entire Palisades Park community.

"I am happily married to my wife, Jennifer Turi, who is the supervisor of Title One (state and federal programs) at Passaic County Technical Institute. We have three sons, twin 13-year-olds Mateo and Jaiden, and a 3-year-old named Nico. We recently moved to Wayne, N.J. If there is anyone from the Class of '95 or any alumni in the field of education who are interested in networking, I am accessible via email at rmendez@palpkschools.org."

1996

Jennifer Cassini
908-637-8658
194 Free Union Road
Great Meadows, NJ 07838-2333
thecassinis@gmail.com
jennifer.cassini@centenaryuniversity.edu

Jennifer Cassini writes: "It is hard to believe that over 20 years have passed since we graduated. I am once again a student at Centenary—this time a graduate student pursuing my master's in educational leadership—and am currently planning to graduate in May 2020. I changed careers since my undergraduate days and am in my eighth year as a middle school

math teacher and am teaching in Paterson, N.J. My own children have grown up. My two eldest are in college and the youngest is a sophomore at Hackettstown High School.

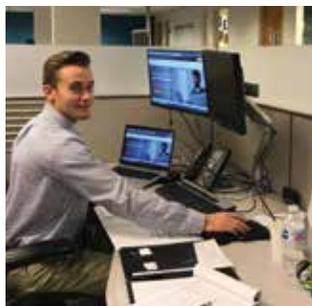
"It would be great to hear from all of you, so if you get a moment, send me an email and let me know what you have been up to."

1997

Rochelle Makela-Goodman presented "Creating Your Own Brand" at Centenary University's Alumni & Family Weekend on Oct. 6.

2001

Kathleen Zucker, a Liberty Mutual Insurance branch manager in Parsippany, recently hired **Blake Fielding '18**—her first Centenary hire.



Blake Fielding

2005

Jamie Ponce was recently named general manager of the New York Red Bulls II. He previously served as director of business operations.

2006

Christopher Hlubik was promoted to the rank of sergeant with the Fairfield Police Department in Fairfield, N.J. He will serve as the department's homeland security officer and will be responsible for conducting threat assessments for various locations and events in the town, and will also oversee the department's charitable events.

The Hope Chamber of Commerce recognized **Maria Maier**, chief operating officer of the Land of Make Believe, with its Outstanding Citizen Award. A member of the Centenary University President's Advisory Council, she holds an M.B.A. from the University.

2015

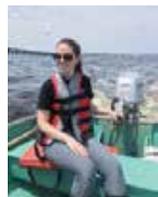
Ryan Caparoni was sworn in as a patrolman with the Bernards Township Police Department last summer. He

holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Centenary University.

2014

Dominick de Matteo
301 Lake Street
Dallas, PA 18612
centenaryclassof2014@gmail.com

Heidi O'Neill writes: "I am now a research scientist for the State of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the Division of Science and Research. I work on drinking and groundwater quality issues in the state and work closely as a liaison for the state to the Science Advisory Board, an external body of experts who help the department make policy and regulatory decisions. My educational background is a Bachelor of Science in biology with a concentration in environmental science from Centenary and a Master of Arts in environmental management from Montclair State University."



Heidi O'Neill participates in the Barnegat Bay Blitz, the DEP's annual community service cleanup event of the watershed.

Since **Brian Grise** graduated, he has worked a couple of different jobs. His most recent was as a corrections officer for three years. Brian recently married Emily Sobel. He is currently in the police academy and is expected to graduate in December 2019.

Alex Poage writes: "I am a production assistant for People Helping People Productions, a nonprofit organization. We are in talks with Netflix to do a series called "H.I.T.S." (Heroes in These Streets), which will deal with the horrors of human trafficking. We started filming the pilot episode in July and expected to be done with episode one by October. I also do special effects, props, and help get donations for food, locations, and props."



Alex Poage

Kelley Carvalho writes: "Since graduation, I earned my M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire University and am going on my fifth year working for the New York Red Bulls. In 2018, I got engaged and will be getting married in June 2019. On top of that, we are having a baby, due in February 2019."



Kelley Carvalho and her fiancé

Amanda Roy writes: "Since graduation, I have moved into my own place. I am renting a little cottage in Midland Park, N.J. I work full time at an insurance brokerage and I just became fully licensed to sell life and health insurance in New Jersey. In my spare time, I still do standup comedy and was recently a semifinalist in the Ladies of Laughter® 2018 competition."

Morgan Mack writes: "These days, I've been keeping busy studying my craft. I took the foundation that Carl Wallnau, Lea Antolini-Lid, and Stephen Davis gave me during my four years at Centenary in the Theatre Department and built on it. I've moved into New York City, got representation, and spend most days auditioning or taking acting and dance classes. I've done residencies at The Broadway Theatre of Pitman, performed at the Count Basie Theatre, and worked as a dancer for

Warner Bros. Six Flags Great Adventure. I've been lucky enough to get in front of producers for major networks like Nickelodeon and been invited into the audition room for various national tours, as well as certain Broadway shows. I feel as though it is not a matter of if, but when. Without Centenary and the education I received there through opportunities like the study abroad program, I would not have been able to achieve what I have."



Morgan Mack

2018

Rachel Danitz is a coordinator of Centenary University's new Changebuilders Project. A partnership with New Jersey Campus Compact, the program has the potential to create up to 50,000 hours of high-quality volunteer time over five years.



Rachel Danitz

SAVE THE DATE!

CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

Scholarship Gala

Join us in honoring our
2019 Scholarship Recipients

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Perona Farms
Andover, New Jersey

The Spirit Moves Him



Timothy Nicinski '03

Fifteen years ago, a degree from Centenary University helped to propel **Timothy Nicinski '03's** career in education. Now, the grateful graduate is giving back to his University through his new position as chaplain to the Centenary community.

With a master's degree in instructional leadership from Centenary, Nicinski advanced in his field to become superintendent of the Stanhope School District. Retiring

from that post last December, he has quickly become a familiar face on campus. In addition to serving at Centenary, Nicinski is pastor of Waterloo United Methodist Church in Stanhope.

In an article published by My Paper Online, Nicinski said, "I feel this great sense of gratitude to give back to a school that provided me with a wonderful foundation as a student. The degree I earned at Centenary allowed me to be a better teacher, serve as an educational leader, and craft educational experiences for children that I believe will make the world a better place."

Nicinski studied for the ministry through the United Methodist Church at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Illinois, and plans to institute programs including Bible study and book clubs to support the spiritual needs of Centenary's students, faculty, and staff. "The chaplaincy was always a draw for me," he explained in the article. "I felt it provided a space to minister beyond the local parish, to support people through Christ in their natural setting. Centenary University has provided me this opportunity to serve the community that I care about—young people at a college that is important to me."

In Memoriam

- Constance Goldsmith Addington '54..... 7/31/2018
- Joan Copeland Benson '64 3/30/2018
- Marjorie Mapes Boulware '37..... 7/7/2018
- Shila Donovan Bowron '475/25/2018
- Jeanne Brockmyer '35 4/1/2018
- Priscilla Stanley Casperson-King '619/8/2018
- Thomas Gallik '14/'16 7/16/2018
- Cynthia Erickson Hellerman '585/4/2018
- Nancy Hodoski Junglas '54 9/23/2018
- Kathryn Gary Kiley '6710/2/2018
- Barbara Chance McGarvey '56..... 4/22/2018
- Margaret Steinbring McMillan '475/9/2018
- Jean Moughon Murphy '46 4/7/2018
- Marcia Harris Murphy '57 7/15/2018
- Amelia Schneidereith Pierson '53.....9/12/2018
- Janet Gehle Thomson '56 8/22/2018
- Joyce Anderson Totten '52 6/26/2018
- Doris Meinweiser Urice '499/4/2018
- Nancy Briwa Veeder '463/25/2018

Centenary University Board of Trustees

Officers

- Wolfgang Gstattenbauer '84/'13 HA
Chairman
- Kenneth "Lee" Hahn '15 HA
1st Vice Chair
- Norman Worth '13 HA
2nd Vice Chair
- Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97
3rd Vice Chair
- Lucinda Thomas Embersits '59
Secretary
- David Johnson
Treasurer

- Susan Bateman, Esq.
- Denise Blasevick '90
- Audrey Bonaparte-Watts '78
- Howard L. Burrell, Ph.D.
- Stan Caine, Ph.D.
- Michael T. Catapano '92
- David D. Dallas
- Rev. Dr. Frank L. Fowler, III
- Michael B. Lavery, Esq.
- Merri Millman
- Ray Nisivocchia
- Rosalind Reichard, Ph.D.

- Bishop John R. Schol
 - Alden Siegel '14 HA
 - Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62
 - Bryan Watkinson '07
Alumni Trustee
 - Edward Yaw, Ed.D.
- Trustees Emeritus**
- Arden Davis Melick '60/'01 HA
Chair Emerita
 - Hae-Jong Kim, D.Min.

Alumni Association Executive Board

- Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks '04/06
President
- Caitlin Hacker Parenteau '09
First Vice President
- Yolanda Sheffield Williams '06
Second Vice President
- Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06
Recording/Correspondence Secretary
- Kyle Malavasi '14
Treasurer

- Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Nominating Chairperson
- Bryan Watkins '07
Alumni Trustee
- Vita Romanelli-Young '78/80
Past President
- Members-at-large*
- Carol Allen '72
- Carol Brennan '12
- Angie Desai '07
- Mary Marion Eckel '09/11/13
- Angela Rodriguez Moore '90
- Alan Sciarillo '17
- Brooke Westenberger '13

Superhero for Kids



Jordan Toma '12

“I want to get in front of every student who feels so alone, like I did, and make sure not one of them falls through the cracks.”

On paper, **Jordan Toma '12** wasn't supposed to succeed. A learning disability had sparked an avalanche of issues: failing grades, low standardized test scores, high anxiety, and shattered confidence. The high school wrestler was rejected by 15 colleges before a counselor put him in touch with Centenary University.

The University accepted Toma under the condition that he complete STEP Ahead, its intensive summer residential program providing specialized support for students who face academic, social, or emotional challenges transitioning to college. It changed his life.

“Everyone wanted me to succeed,” Toma says of the people he met at Centenary. “They motivated me to believe in myself, and showed me what it was like when someone cared. I had to put in a lot of hard work. But I remember feeling like my life had changed.”

While at Centenary, Toma had to work twice as hard as his peers. He memorized course material by hand-writing it over and over, and began studying for exams four weeks in advance. His hard work paid off. Toma received his degree in psychology, earning a 3.3 GPA. Today, he channels that same determination to helping others through the Prudential financial services business that he owns in Westfield, N.J. “I feel like a superhero, making sure that families are protected,” Toma says of his work. “I’m passionate about it.”

Now, Toma is also a superhero to kids who struggle in school. Last year, he founded I’m Just a Kid with an IEP, LLC, touring the country to encourage students with learning disabilities. In school classrooms and at conferences, Toma has shared his inspiring story with students, parents, teachers, and members of child study teams. His message: you may have to accept that you’ll work harder, but you never have to accept defeat.

“I want to give these kids hope,” Toma explains. “No one is coming into schools to do that. I want to get in front of every student who feels so alone, like I did, and make sure not one of them falls through the cracks.”

Following his presentations, kids have emailed Toma to thank him, and teachers have reached out for his feedback. He’s glad to pay it forward in thanks for the support he received at the University. “Centenary gave me a shot when no one else would,” Toma says. “The people I met there made me believe in myself. If Centenary hadn’t accepted me, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”



400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840

There's Still Time to Give!

Your past support has energized Centenary University.

In 2018, we introduced in-demand academic programs and built beautiful new campus facilities. Enrollment has grown, providing career opportunities to even more first-year students.

You've given a valuable gift to Centenary students—a future.

We're grateful for the remarkable investment you've made, in them and in the University. Together, we've accomplished so much:

15%

Increase in first-year enrollment
Fall 2018



New Academic Programs
in Data Analytics,
Medical Lab Science,
4+1 MBA,
and Sustainable Practices



New Honors Program
drawing talented students
to Centenary



New Facilities
Newly-rebuilt President's
House, Groundbreaking on
Our Diamond of Dreams
Baseball Complex, Equestrian
Center Horse Walker

Your generosity makes all this possible. To keep the momentum going, we are asking you to consider a year-end contribution to Centenary University. It's the best gift you can give to our students this holiday season.

Your gift provides Centenary University with the resources to grow enrollment, enhance academics, and update our campus. Please consider increasing your contribution today at alumni.centenaryuniversity.edu/give-to-centenary

