



The Magazine of Centenary University

Winter 2020

# CENTENARIAN



INSIDE DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, BELONGING

COLLEGE REIMAGINED

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FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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# Puppy Love

**Certified therapy dog Ramsey was on hand for Move-In Day to ease the anxiety students sometimes feel leaving home for the first time. The French bulldog rescue is owned by Lauren Bergey, Ph.D., Centenary University's dean of special academic programs.**



## Leading the Way

As we approach the new year and nearly one year since I began my term as president, I am filled with gratitude. 2020 has certainly tested the fortitude of every single person on our campus and across our nation. Yet through it all, I've witnessed great acts of ingenuity, generosity, and courage from those who comprise our Centenary community. It's fair to say that the pandemic has strengthened this University in ways we never dreamed possible.

During the fall semester, it became increasingly clear that smaller universities like Centenary hold big benefits for students during the current health crisis, ensuring that students remain on campus and on track to graduate as planned. Introduced this fall, Centenary Choice lets students decide whether to attend classes in person, remotely, or in a HyFlex format combining the two.

In this issue, you will read about how this University is reimagining every aspect of a Centenary education—from student recruitment and instruction to community service, athletics, alumni relations, and more—as a result of the pandemic. Thanks to virtual platforms, our students have interacted with nationally recognized guest speakers in their courses and with prestigious organizations such as the Truman Library. Service initiatives have gone virtual, too, with a combination of in-person and online projects. In addition, Centenary Stays Connected, a series of online seminars offered through our Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB), continues to entertain, support, and engage Centenary graduates.

As we look to the future, much in our world is still uncertain. But this much is clear: The best practices developed this semester will form the foundation for a new way to educate students, broadening opportunities for engagement in the classroom and across student life. As today's high school seniors go through the application process, they'll be taking a second look at the smaller universities, like Centenary, that kept students on campus while enriching instruction during the most serious public health crisis in a century.

**“The pandemic has strengthened this University in ways we never dreamed possible.”**

On behalf of my wife, Jeanne, and myself, I'm proud of everyone in the University community for your resilience during this incredible year. Your dedication and support have always been the bedrock of this institution. Thanks to you, Centenary University is leading the way in this new era of higher education.

Dr. Bruce Murphy, President



## ACCOLADES AROUND

Centenary University students continue to earn accolades for their scholarly pursuits. This semester two education majors, **Ivy Kellenberger '21** and **Sean Graham '21**, have been lauded on the state and national levels.

The New Jersey Historical Commission selected Graham as the recipient of this year's Paul A. Stelhorn Undergraduate Paper in History Award for his honors capstone project, entitled "The Origins of Centenary Collegiate Institute: A Story of Industrialization, Wealth, and Natural Resources." After hearing of the honor, Graham was amazed to learn that last year's award recipients were students attending Princeton and Harvard universities. "When I saw that, I was shocked," said Graham, who has a concentration in social studies and plans to become a history teacher. "I feel really proud to represent Centenary in such a great way. This University has given a lot to me, so I'm happy to give back."

Over the course of three years, Graham delved into five key reasons the Newark Methodist Conference chose to locate a new seminary in Hackettstown: Proximity to train and canal transportation, vibrant local economy, plentiful healthy water supply, an influential local Methodist minister on the selection committee, and the altruism and personal economic interests

of the University's original 10 funders. This fall, Graham also received word that an article he wrote on the topic has been accepted for publication by *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

A 20-year-old single mother, Kellenberger was awarded a \$2,500 Bella Ella Boutique Empowerment Scholarship from Bella Ella Boutique, a Utah-based online women's boutique. The scholarship, which recognizes college women who have overcome adversity to pursue their dreams through higher education, accepts applications from students across the nation.

Kellenberger became pregnant at 17 while still in high school. The honor student earned an associate degree from Sussex County Community College and left a physically and emotionally abusive relationship to make a better life for herself and her daughter. The future teacher, who has a concentration in English with special education certification, said, "I've always loved the ability to pick up a book and go to a different world. The field of teaching will allow me to share this world with students, letting them know there's a whole other world out there. Education has granted me a future I never thought possible."



## Rock the Vote

Voter engagement was high at Centenary University this fall, as many students prepared to cast their first ballots in a presidential election. The University joined colleges and universities around the nation this fall to register first-time voters, as well as educate all voters about the changing mechanics of casting a ballot during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our goal this fall was to emphasize that every voice counts,” said **Rachel Danitz '18**, community engagement coordinator. “Our message was that no matter who you vote for, it’s so important to be informed about the issues and exercise your constitutional right to vote.”

Through a combination of in-person voter registration drives, virtual events to raise awareness, and text banking campaigns, the University engaged with over 200 students—more than half of them virtually. Centenary teamed up with several community partners, including the League of Women Voters, All In Campus Democracy Challenge, National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day to present the events. Danitz said, “This election was pivotal in so many ways. It was great to see so many Centenary students engaged in the process. They learned that their vote has the power to shape national policy for the next four years, and beyond.”



#CUatthepolls  
#voteready  
#nationalvoterregistrationday  
@cuserve



## EXPLORING THE PANDEMIC



The COVID-19 pandemic took centerstage at this fall’s Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecture Series, with global health leader Dr. Craig Spencer headlining the virtual presentation, “COVID-19: Reflections on the acute crisis and long-term impacts.” An assistant professor of medicine and population and family health at Columbia University Medical Center, Dr. Spencer was on the front lines when the pandemic’s first wave swept through New York City last spring. He has emerged as a national media expert commenting on COVID-19.

In addition to COVID-19, Dr. Spencer has engaged with some of the most notable disease outbreaks in recent years. He confronted the Ebola virus in West Africa and was an emergency medical worker in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. Dr. Spencer serves as director, global health emergency medicine, at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for Doctors Without Borders.

The Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecture at Centenary University recognizes the dedication to the University of Joseph R. Ferry, trustee from 1948 to 1976 and treasurer of the Board of Trustees for 20 years. It was established to set high standards and goals for students and faculty, and to enrich the quality of life on the Centenary campus.

@cuserve



## Never Forget

Centenary University marked the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in a virtual ceremony hosted by Centenary University **President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.**, and his wife, **Jeanne**, with presentation of the colors by American Legion Post 164 of Hackettstown and remarks by Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5TH District). Accompanying videos included a 9/11 remembrance by **Raymond Frey, Ph.D.**, professor of history and university historian, and a discussion of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum by **Megan Kolbusch '18**, a former museum interpretive guide at the site.



## Worlds of Experience

**Jeanne Murphy** is used to high profile assignments. During a 30-year career with the United States Army, she served in posts around the world, at the Pentagon, and even on the United States Olympic Committee. Now, she has embraced another role in the spotlight at Centenary University.

Since arriving on campus last January, Murphy—who is the wife of Centenary University President **Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.**—has quietly started to advance the University's mission on campus and in the local community. In addition to supporting Centenary's theatre performances, she has signed on to speak in classes and promote the University's extensive programs for veterans, as well as joining the board of the Hackettstown Business Improvement District.

"Centenary brings so much to our students and to our local community," Murphy said. "People here welcomed us with open arms, and despite the restrictions presented by the pandemic, we very quickly became a part of the campus community."

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Murphy joined the Army to pursue a program that provided tuition for her to attend the University of Miami for two years, with another two years at the University of Maryland School of Nursing to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. Her military career included travel to areas such as Europe and Latin America, as well as South Korea and the Middle East.

A post at the Pentagon proved pivotal to her life. While working on a research study for the U.S. Surgeon General's Office to determine the effectiveness of workplace health and wellness programs she met Bruce Murphy, an officer with the Army personnel office and a participant in the study. The two

later married.

Before her retirement from the military in 2005, Murphy was given oversight of the military's program for world-class athletes, a task that placed her on the U.S. Olympic Committee's Board of Directors. A former member of the U.S. modern pentathlon team, Murphy attended Olympic games in Sydney, Salt Lake City, and Athens, as well as the Paralympic Games in Athens, U.S. Olympic development camps, World Cup tournaments, and military world championships.

Now at Centenary, she has already found ways to leverage her experience to benefit the University's students, especially veterans. She has served as a guest speaker in several classes and arranged for the Centenary women's basketball team to interact virtually with members of the WNBA, who were in a protective bubble for the season due to COVID-19.

A retired Army colonel, Murphy views veterans' programs, like Centenary's therapeutic riding program and the new General Education Mobile (GEM) Program offered in partnership with the Community College of the Air Force, as important ways Centenary can support veterans while enriching the campus community. Someday, she'd like to see a ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corp) program on campus.

"Veterans have so much to offer and they've been through so much," Murphy explained. "They deserve the support and welcoming that universities like Centenary offer in such a unique way. Veterans tend to bring a maturity to the classroom because they have very worldly skills. It's a real-world perspective that makes them good role models for our other students."

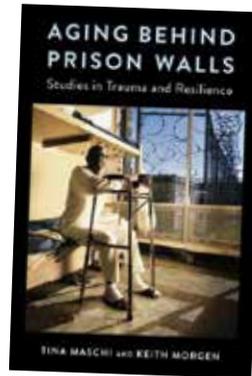
## Considering Compassionate Release



A new book co-written by **Keith Morgen, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, examines a crisis brewing in the American prison system. In *Aging Behind Prison Walls: Studies in Trauma and Resilience* (Columbia University Press, 2020), Dr. Morgen and co-author Tina Maschi of Fordham University offer concrete proposals at the community and national policy levels for addressing the pressing issue of incarcerated older adults.

Meticulously researched, the book presents a compassionate analysis of the lives of elders in prison. Today in the United States, more than 200,000 people over 50 are languishing in prisons, with projections estimating that older adults will account for one-third of the prison population by 2030. In their book, Dr. Morgen and Maschi explore the coping strategies used by incarcerated aging adults to create meaning in their lives.

Dr. Morgen is an expert on mental health issues for nonviolent older adults in prison, as well as on addiction and recovery issues. He is also the author of *Substance Use Disorders and Addictions* (SAGE Publications, Inc., 2016).



## Bitten by the Research Bug

New research launched by Assistant Professor of Biology **Amanda Tokash-Peters, Ph.D.**, and two Centenary University



Amanda Tokash-Peters, Ph.D.

students could someday halt the spread of the spotted lantern fly, an invasive species destroying trees and crops in northwestern New Jersey. The insect is

believed to have arrived in the United States on shipping containers and is easy to identify, with spotted beige wings that have cherry red undersides. Laying its eggs in the fall and feeding on plants from May through October, they leave a substance on trees and crops called honeydew, making vegetation susceptible to a fungal infection.



Victoria Viersma '21

Dr. Tokash-Peters' research focuses on the microbiome—all of the microorganisms within an environment—to isolate and sequence their DNA, and then identify microbes

that are critical to the insect's lifecycle. Centenary students **Victoria Viersma '21** and **Alissa Mor '22** play a key role in the research, conducted through a partnership between Dr. Tokash-Peters and the University of Massachusetts Boston.

"I'd like to see this research, years from now, be the basis of developing probiotics to deal with this infection," said Dr.



Tokash-Peters, whose previous research focused on mosquito microbiomes. We could promote good bacteria to stop the infection and defend plants."

Alissa Mor '22

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

When it comes to forging positive interactions with students, Assistant Professor of Education **Lexis McCoy** practices what she preaches. Currently pursuing her doctorate at Northeastern University, McCoy's research focuses on the vital role that positive teacher-student interactions play in student learning. The dedicated professor puts theory into action for her students at Centenary University, where she also serves as director of the Master of Education in Literacy Instruction program.

When the University offered a HyFlex option for fall semester students, McCoy made resource binders to enrich the educational experience for students who chose online instruction. Vice President for Academic Affairs **Amy D'Olivo, Ph.D.**, noted, "Lexi spent hours assembling these manuals, but more noteworthy is the care she puts into each and every thing she does as a teacher. The personal attention she provides for every student embodies what's truly special about a Centenary University education."



Emily Slack '22



Tricia DeGeorge '22

# COLLEGE REIMAGINED



## Powerful digital tools enrich the academic experience.



Students work in a HyFlex lab.



In-person interaction remains important.

When faculty and students returned to Centenary University's campus for the fall semester, they faced a rapidly shifting educational landscape as a result of the pandemic. For the first time, new technology installed in classrooms allowed faculty to teach students, both in person and online, simultaneously. Outdoor and virtual activities, including community service, largely replaced in-person events, and prospective students interfaced with the University's enrollment counselors and participated in digital campus tours.

Today, there's little doubt that higher education has changed forever—and that smaller universities like Centenary are uniquely positioned to lead the way incorporating this new digital frontier on college campuses. Centenary University President **Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.**, noted that when it comes to digital agility, small universities have an easier time bringing creative approaches to the classroom.

"Across the nation, the pandemic has forced educators at all levels to take a hard look at the way we're presenting content to students," he said. "At Centenary, we're fortunate to have several factors working in our favor: small size and small classes by design. While in-person experiences are always favored, we're seeing that there's definitely a strong case for incorporating virtual platforms into some aspects of education. It's a new era of higher education and small colleges and universities like Centenary are ready to lead the way."

COVID-19 isn't the only factor driving the most recent academic advances at Centenary. A new strategic planning process underway at the University seeks to establish Centenary as the intellectual, economic, and cultural heart of the Skylands Region, encompassing northwestern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. As the pandemic progressed and Centenary created new ways of instructing students, at the heart of every new initiative were the plan's strategic imperatives: enhancing student opportunity and success; spurring continuous



Business students interact during a panel discussion.

improvement and growth of University programming; serving the educational, social, and economic needs of the Skylands Region; and promoting diversity, inclusion, and belonging.

As a result, while the pandemic has accelerated digital advances on campuses across the nation, many new initiatives underway at Centenary have been the result of ongoing, thoughtful planning about how to meet the evolving needs of today's students, as well as those of employers and the local community. Of course, online learning isn't new. For more than a decade, the popularity of virtual courses and the ability to earn degrees—especially those on the master's and doctoral levels—has grown exponentially. Students are also more comfortable than ever working and socializing online. What's new is the potential to harness this powerful tool to enrich academic experiences long after the pandemic abates.

At a time when many larger universities canceled in-person classes for the fall semester, Centenary introduced a new program called Centenary Choice, providing students with the flexibility to choose to attend classes in person, online, or in a HyFlex format combining both options. While there were challenges to overcome, faculty and students quickly began to realize that digital tools provide unique opportunities to enrich the academic experience.



This fall, **Raymond Frey, Ph.D.**, professor of history, assigned an independent research project to students in his African American History course using the digital archives of the Truman Library. The charge: to analyze the library's original documents to determine the motivations for US President Harry

Truman's call for racial justice in a 1947

speech to the NAACP's national conference

at the Lincoln Memorial. "Rather than passive learning through lectures and textbooks, I wanted students to get their hands dirty like real historians, searching through the archives and coming to their own conclusions," said Dr. Frey, who has served as a consultant with the Truman Library. "Historians go beyond history.com to find answers. Some of my students struggled at first. They had never been asked to do this kind of research, so it was a huge transition for them. In the end, I was very proud of how they responded."

In addition to creating more hands-on learning opportunities for students, digital tools have the potential to broaden their world view. This semester a host of influential speakers visited Centenary classrooms virtually. Vice President for Academic Affairs **Amy D'Olivo Ph.D.**, explained, "The digital landscape has translated into the ability to bring national-level speakers directly into the Centenary University classroom, without the need for large travel budgets. Now, our students can learn from top experts in their fields, in a format that encourages one-on-one interaction." Among the well-known guest speakers to address Centenary students virtually this fall was Dr. Craig Spencer, global health leader and national expert on COVID-19, who served as this fall's Gates-Ferry Distinguished Lecturer.

In addition, a Leadership Enhancement course taught by Dr. Murphy provided opportunities for Honors Program students to view leadership through the lens of virtual guest speakers including Norman R. Augustine, founding president and retired CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation and a former undersecretary of the U.S. Army; Belle S. Wheelan, CEO of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges and former secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr., one of the most combat seasoned four-star generals in American military history; and Col. Kevin Kit Parker, Ph.D., a U.S. Army Reserve officer and leading researcher in cardiac cell biology and tissue engineering, traumatic brain injury, and biological applications of micro- and nanotechnologies.

Outside the classroom, Centenary leveraged digital tools to strengthen the University's impact on the local community. Assistant Professor of Education **Lexis McCoy** and her students organized virtual story times and prepared educational resources to assist teachers and parents with homeschooling during the pandemic, while Assistant Professor of English **Carol Barnett, D.L.**'s students created a mentorship program, complete with virtual storybooks, for students at a local charter school.

The HyFlex format offered in Centenary's classes also extended to service opportunities for students, who responded enthusiastically to new, creative ways to partner with local organizations. Community Engagement Coordinator **Rachel Danitz '18** said almost 300 students participated in service projects this fall through courses, clubs, and organizations, as well as Cyclone athletics teams. Of the 73 students participating through her office, 44 were first-time volunteers. In addition, 63 percent of participants volunteered virtually.

"I've been surprised at how enthusiastic students have been for the virtual service events we've offered, since many have to spend so much time online for their classes," said Danitz. "A number of fully-remote students whom I've never worked with have engaged in service this year. Virtual opportunities with our community partners are now available that we've never had before."

A virtual lab facilitated by Tammy Quasius, science laboratory technician



Associate Professor of Education Marianne Pratschler, Ed.D., '78/'79 interacts with students in class and online.

While the University's organizations offered a host of more traditional in-person service opportunities—from a Habitat for Humanity build, a river cleanup, and voter registration drives to collecting donations of food, coats, toiletries, shoes, and clothing—virtual options offered new ways to serve others. Throughout the semester, Centenary students volunteered to send thank you cards to veterans and first responders, participated in pre-Election Day text banking to get out the vote, and became more knowledgeable about voting issues through the Virtual Voter Education Challenge.

Ultimately, the goal at Centenary and the nation's other colleges and universities is the return of all students to campus for in-person instruction. While the pandemic has been difficult to weather, in many ways it has prompted educational institutions to take a hard look at every aspect of college life and find ways to improve the experience. At Centenary, that has meant evaluating how to leverage the benefits of digital tools when students return to the physical classroom. The University is also exploring new virtual partnerships with educational institutions across the nation to pool resources and expand educational offerings. A deepened comfort level with digital learning born during the pandemic has now accelerated that effort, and will help to level the playing field between small universities and their larger counterparts.

"The hallmark of a Centenary University education will always be the face-to-face mentoring our faculty provides to students," Dr. D'Oliveo said. "That's something technology will never change. The big difference now is that we have new digital tools that create more opportunities for our students to interact with a broader range of ideas and engage even more powerfully with the world outside of the classroom."

Q&A



*with* Mr. Devon Vialva and Dr. Bruce Murphy



# Diversity Inclusion Belonging

**Tell us about the Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Advisory Board.**

**Dr. Bruce Murphy** We started working on Centenary University’s new strategic plan last winter. At the time, I thought it was important to have diversity, inclusion, and belonging as one of the plan’s imperatives. For me, the events of the summer turned up the urgency on this. We started talking, and saw that in our strategic plan objectives, when it comes to diversity, inclusion, and belonging, we’re not at the level where we want to be—in diversity numbers, and in the ways people feel like they are included and belong at Centenary. I hope that this advisory group will be the catalyst to bring more impactful experiences to campus to create meaningful change.

**Mr. Devon Vialva '97/08** At the heart of our work are these questions: What does it mean to be a Centenary student? Do we recognize the cultural identities of our students? How do diverse students identify with Centenary? Really understanding the

impact of cultural identity can have a profound impact on the Centenary student experience. Everyone on the advisory board is strategically placed throughout the University and all have crucial roles, coming directly in contact with students. We are here to assist in starting a conversation. It’s a long road ahead of us and we understand that.

**How do you start the conversation?**

**DV** Everything really has to start with listening to the experiences of others, so the first thing we did was hold listening sessions. A good number of students and alumni, dating back to 2011, took part. They shared their experiences of being a Centenary student of color. We wanted to hear them, respond to them, and embrace who they are. You really don’t know how someone feels unless you ask. We also hosted a virtual conference within the Education Department to look at systemic racism in the field. It was a candid conversation with participants from as far away as California, Salt Lake City,

Baltimore, and Florida. As a University, it was really good for Centenary to be a leader in starting that conversation.

### **What have you heard from Centenary students?**

**BM** We heard a lot that we're really taking to heart. The culture here is great: professors really know their students, and students really know their professors. But a big factor in student success is how well they feel they belong. They find belonging in a big way through getting involved with student organizations, where there are opportunities to lead in a relatively risk-free environment. So it's sobering to hear students or alumni say, "I was disrespected because of the color of my skin" or "I wasn't valued for the intellectual contributions that I believed I was making." If anything, hearing these things strengthened my commitment to make sure that we engage on this, that we listen on this a lot, and that we have ongoing conversations.

### **What's the difference between inclusion and belonging?**

**BM** Diversity is critical, but I really think the other two parts of this—inclusion and belonging—are more important. Inclusion is more of a social kind of feeling. It gets at having the programs and activities that appeal to students and that they feel comfortable seeking out those opportunities. The real key is belonging. You have to feel it.

**DV** Belonging really brings it all together. When you're a college student, you have to feel that there's a connection, that this is really a place to call home. I've always had that sense of community at Centenary, dating back to my days as a student here. While it was a different time, when people didn't really talk about culture and identity, I felt that I belonged. That's what helped me to feel like it's my responsibility to come back and give other students the same opportunities I've had. We want every student to feel like they belong at Centenary.

### **How can faculty play a role?**

**DV** Faculty are so important. They're the first point of contact with students. There is an assumption that faculty should know everything because they are our foremost professionals in complex subject areas. They're also human. They want to help create change and may not know how to start or are afraid of making mistakes. At one of our recent faculty training sessions, a guest speaker told them, "Be comfortable with the idea that there are things that you just don't know. Allow that to be a part of the steps you're taking to bring forth change." We may make some mistakes, but that's how you learn. Moving forward, there are a lot of things none of us know and that's ok. We can have those important contextual conversations acknowledging that we may not have all the answers, but we're putting forth our

resources to build training that creates meaningful change.

### **Is there a timeline?**

**BM** This is a long-term, institutional effort, so there's no time limit. Task forces have timelines. Advisory boards are ongoing. This board will provide me with input moving forward throughout our strategic planning process, and beyond. Subsequently, this group advises me and that informs University policy. This has to be a very thoughtful and deliberate process because they're informing the president. That's intentional.

I'd like to see a representative from this group in every one of our strategic planning breakout groups to provide a voice throughout every step of our planning. It will make a big difference in how we influence our campus culture. We're in the early stages now, but we have some great hopes for this board. I think it's necessary. I think it's important. I look forward to some great things and continuing the conversation.

### **What's next?**

**BM** This advisory board will be recommending initiatives directly to me, on very high-level topics with the potential to make a big impact on things like recruitment; hiring and retaining a representative, high-quality faculty; staff and faculty training; student life; and lots more. It will involve broad input from students, faculty, employees, and alumni to make sure everyone's voice is heard.

**DV** As Dr. Murphy has said, this is going to take some time. It is also going to take some very, very tough, but necessary, conversations. There are going to be things questioned that some people may believe we don't need to question. Through that questioning, we'll be making sure that we're inclusive across the University's day-to-day operations. In the end, we are responsible for challenging ourselves and our community. It's all part of changing the landscape and redefining who we are as a university, and that's a good thing.

*President of Centenary University Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., is a U.S. Army veteran who holds a doctorate from Vanderbilt University, master's degrees from Teachers College at Columbia University and the University of Southern California, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.*

*Assistant Dean of Diversity and Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Devon Vialva '97/08 is chair of the Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Advisory Board. He earned a master's in public administration from Centenary University and will graduate next spring with a doctorate in educational leadership.*



# CHALLENGE: ACCEPTED

Cyclones never back down from a challenge. So when the Colonial States Athletics Conference (CSAC) announced the suspension all fall sports competition until the spring semester, Centenary University's student-athletes responded with resilience and determination. Coaches organized activities for Cyclones to work out and build teamwork, while student-athletes deepened their commitment to the local community through a host of service projects.



"I'm really proud of Centenary's student-athletes and coaches," said Director of Athletics **Travis Spencer**, who reports that not one student-athlete had withdrawn from the University by the beginning of the fall semester. In fact, the University gained several student-athletes who chose to attend college closer to home.

Spencer added, "Centenary Athletics has handled this pandemic well. Since March, this has been an ever-changing environment. We've pivoted a dozen times, and each time, our Cyclones have adapted admirably."

Now, all eyes are turning to the winter season, which at press time has been postponed through January for men's and women's basketball, as well as wrestling. That could be extended, depending on the spread of COVID-19 and updates from the

CSAC and the NCAA. But Centenary student-athletes are laser focused on being ready for the beginning of the start of a new season, whenever it happens. In addition, both fall and spring student-athletes have their eye on the spring season—which means that, if all goes as planned, it will be a busy semester for Centenary Athletics.

To be ready, coaches have organized team activities, retooled to comply with safety guidelines from the CSAC, NCAA, and State of New Jersey. During the warmer fall weather, student-athletes trained outside as much as possible. Social distancing and masking were also incorporated into all outdoor and indoor workouts and drills were adjusted to promote safety.

Combining two seasons into one will mean an all-hands-on-deck approach for Centenary's athletics staff. Spencer said, "I see the spring as being very hectic with two seasons being combined into one. It will take a total team effort to manage. We're excited at the possibility of offering these opportunities to our student-athletes. I'd say that we're up to the challenge."



## Perfect Pairs

### Endowed scholarships match donor vision with deserving Centenary University students.

#### James Gregory Smith Scholarship



When James Gregory Smith perished on 9/11, Centenary University faculty and friends established the scholarship as a way to honor his memory and recognize excellence in the study of business. Smith was the brother of **Barbara Jayne Lewthwaite '96 HA, Ed.D.**, professor of business and

president *emerita* at Centenary. "I think my brother would be very proud of the scholarship recipients," Dr. Lewthwaite said. "They're self-made students, many of whom are working their way through college, as my brother and I did."

This year's recipient, **Darnel Burnette '22** of Irvington, N.J., is a double major in finance and accounting who will graduate with 150 credits through the University's challenging CPA track. This year, he was a national semi-finalist for the Finance Leader of the Year Award at the Enactus World Cup in California as a member of the University's competitive business team. "Centenary professors and donors saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," Burnette said. "Now, I'll be the first person in my family to graduate from college. I'm so grateful that they believed in me."



#### Deo Volente Farms Scholarship



**Michael J. Gulotta '09 HA** established this scholarship at Centenary University to recognize Hunterdon County students who work hard in the classroom. The latest recipient, **Amanda LeBelt '22** of Holland Township, N.J., lives up to that expectation. A graphic design major, LeBelt juggles her courses with

intercollegiate athletics as a member of the Cyclones women's soccer team. She said, "The Deo Volente Farms Scholarship motivates me to achieve academic success. I hope one day to be able to help other students achieve their goals, just as Mr. Gulotta has helped me."

Founder and CEO of Deo Volente Farms, a world-class standardbred breeding center, Gulotta is a member of the University's Board of Trustees. He's pleased with the caliber of students selected for this endowed scholarship. "I think the University does a great job focusing on the strengths of students and accentuating those strengths," he said. "A small University that looks to help the most students—that's exactly the type of community outreach we were looking for."



## ADVANCING CENTENARY



Centenary University's new vice president for university advancement, **Karen DiMaria**, hit the ground running when she arrived on campus in August. Her responsibilities include directing the University's institutional advancement efforts, including fundraising, grant writing, alumni relations, and marketing. Building on the University's fundraising successes last year—including a 22% increase in

gifts and donations—DiMaria has instituted several new programs to strengthen alumni affinity and Centenary's brand recognition among key constituents.

"One of the things that has impressed me about Centenary is the extraordinary response of donors to the financial needs of the University and our students in the midst of the pandemic," DiMaria said. "I look forward to utilizing the many relationships I have made over the past 21 years in advancement to help support Centenary's mission and to strengthen it for the future."

DiMaria most recently served as vice president for advancement at the Summit Area YMCA. She has extensive experience in university advancement, with leadership positions at Drew University, Sussex County Community College, Felician University, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in marketing and business management, DiMaria earned a Master of Business Administration from Felician University.

## 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. For class agent contact information, please call Elizabeth Freeman at (908) 852-1400, ext. 2253.

### 1959

#### Ann Hufnagel Rafferty

238 Ash Point Dr  
Owls Head, ME 04854-3522  
(610) 352-9516

Ann Hufnagel Rafferty writes: "I hear from **Deb Johnson Grider**, who lives in San Mateo, Calif. I had hoped to go out there this summer, but that got put off due to travel conditions with the virus.

"I haven't heard from anyone in my class, but I do see **Priscilla Anderson Hare '58**, who has a summer place up in Owls Head, Maine, where I live. That was how we became friends years ago. Hope all are well. I would love to hear from anyone in our class so I can forward information about their life."

### 1960

#### Gail Sylvester Longstreth

239 Halemaumau St  
Honolulu, HI 96821-2055  
(808) 373-4490

#### Betsy Stanley Thomas

2206 Solmar Dr  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-5452  
BetsyThms@aol.com

Gail Sylvester Longstreth writes: "I heard from **Susan Andrews Taylor**, who is still living in Duxbury, Mass., a few months ago. Her email was all

about memories of our hometown in New Jersey. We were house mothers on 1 South at opposite ends of the floor during our senior year at Centenary. I also got an email from **Ann Wolcott Wheat '55**. She is still living right on the water's edge in Belvedere, Calif., across from Sausalito. She has sold her restaurant and is fully retired. We are planning to get together the next time I get to California, but not sure when that will be due to the virus.

"My husband, Robert, passed away on March 11 at age 94. He was the finest man I have ever known, and we shared almost 36 years together. When I can travel, the plan is to strew some of his ashes up in the Delta, where we lived on our houseboat for 16 years."

**Betsy Stanley Thomas** writes: "Hope all of you and your families have been untouched by this nasty virus, and that you continue to stay well and make the accommodations you need to stay healthy.

"The news from **Judy Waters Prochko** is sad. Her well-loved husband of over 50 years passed away in October 2019, just after celebrating his birthday. Judy has moved to another apartment in Ashby Ponds, where she and Bob had been living for several years. Her new address is 211160 Maple Branch Terrace, MG 204, Ashburn, Va., 20147. Judy's roommate, **Brenda Bailey Carter**, moved from Florida, where she had been for

many years, to northern Virginia. Her new address is 19370 Magnolia Grove Square, #301, Leesburg, Va., 20176. Brenda and Judy are now just 10 minutes apart. Nice for both of them. "Paul and I are muddling through this shutdown. We see our daughter and granddaughter every week when they deliver our groceries—our own personal Instacart. Paul continues to struggle with breathing due to COPD. Life and breathing are easier with the heat and humidity gone for now. Please email me with news for the next edition of the *Centenarian*."

### 1961

#### Joyce Fierro Velzy

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

Joyce Fierro Velzy writes: "My husband, Bob, and I continue to self-quarantine. Of course, our doctors couldn't survive without our many visits, so we count those as our exciting social life these days. Our happy news is that one of our sons and his family recently moved from New York to South Carolina, certainly much closer to us here in Florida. Our granddaughter started her freshman year at The College of Charleston. I was surprised and shocked when the doorbell rang on my birthday in August and there stood my son, his wife, and our granddaughter. They said the seven-hour drive was much better than the former one from New York! Not to be outdone, when our second son was in South Carolina helping his brother move, he continued down to Florida and surprised Bob on Father's Day.

"My Centenary roommate, **Debbie Sisbower Lingwood**, and her husband feel very blessed to be living on the lake in Maine. Debbie writes: "During these turbulent times across our nation and around the world, we can escape daily for a walk in the woods, a hike in the mountains, or a boat trip out on our lake to relax and not be focused on all the problems that 2020 is bringing to our world. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are all healthy and doing well. We have three grandchildren who are college freshmen this year. One is in Vermont, one is in New Hampshire, and one is in Pennsylvania at Lafayette learning remotely for this semester and hoping to be on campus after Christmas. The other two are enjoying campus life. We are keeping our first responders and all those affected by the fires, floods, and illness in our prayers daily."

**Molly Power Balzer** writes: "I must be the oldest member of the Class of

1961! My children had a lovely party for me on Sept. 5 in Everett, Wash., for my 80th birthday. My girls and sisters were on a campaign to have 80 greeting cards sent to me in the mail. I received 155 cards. When I came back here to Canada, I had to self-quarantine for 14 days. I received two emails and two phone calls from the Government of British Columbia, as part of their very strict COVID policy, asking if I was obeying the law and staying home and not sick."



Molly Power Balzer '61

"Our new normal is very much like everyone else's," writes **Marian Morse Kindler**. "However, I can't believe I'm now saying how grateful I am for the tech world. We just finished live streaming our church service and shortly we will FaceTime one of our families in San Francisco. Hopefully, next will be a Zoom call. And I was the one who had a fit when the grandchildren arrived, sat down, and immediately started using their cell phones. Finally, I asked them to park them by the front door or put them in their pockets, especially during dinner. Now when they come, I have a list of questions for help on phones or computers—things do change.

"I do hunger for family time and entertaining. I so very miss our volunteer times at our Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. Jim is a eucharistic minister and I work with our awesome chaplains as a pastoral visitor. I am now looking into taking a class with Johns Hopkins to become a contact tracer. It seems to be a much-needed position to help eradicate COVID-19. Jim and I will celebrate our 19th anniversary in October. I sure am grateful for his everyday company, especially during these times of less socialization. We continue to meet with our small group from church at various parks. Jim is back at his beloved golf course working as a starter. I continue to facilitate a cancer support group through emails and calls, but we all miss personal contact. No travels at this point, though hoping to visit our Florida family for Christmas, but time will tell. It

### 1960



Gail Sylvester Longstreth '60 and her late husband, who passed away on March 11.



Gail Sylvester Longstreth '60 with The Pacific Pearls, a Unit of Hawaii Court No. 60 of The Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America. She is vice president of the organization.

# Happy Birthday, Centenary Stage Company!



Centenary Stage Company is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year with a full schedule of indoor and outdoor productions that have been carefully planned to comply with New Jersey's stringent social distancing guidelines. To kick off its anniversary year last summer, the Equity production company hosted a series of free outdoor presentations on the steps of the Edward W. Seay Administration Building. For the winter and spring, Centenary Stage is offering a wide range of socially-distanced cultural events—live theatre, music, and dance—in the Sitnik Theatre. Artistic Director and Fine Arts Department Chair Carl N. Wallnau III noted: "Even during this pandemic, Centenary continues to be a cultural resource for northwestern New Jersey and beyond." Purchase tickets at <http://www.centenarystageco.org>.



## BLUE DAHLIA

Jan. 9, 8 PM

From Paris to Brooklyn, The Blue Dahlia led by singer-songwriter Dahlia Dumont features lyrics in English and French, while effortlessly blending French-Mexican waltz, klezmer, Americana, and reggae with the warm and joyous voice of jazz and French chanson, all on a cheerfully easy-going global fusion set.

## CHUCHITO VALDES

Jan. 23, 8 PM

With influences of Caribbean rhythms and jazz, Chuchito creates an exciting and energetic blend of spicy music that drives audiences wild. This piano master captivates with his sensitivity and drives excitement with his dynamic band.

## METEOR SHOWER

By Steve Martin

FEB. 19 - MAR. 7

Corky and Norm are excited to host Gerald and Laura at their home outside Los Angeles to watch a once-in-a-lifetime meteor shower. As the stars come out, it becomes clear that Gerald and Laura might not be all that they appear to be. Over the course of a crazy, starlit dinner party, the wildly unexpected occurs.

## SEAMUS EGAN PROJECT

Mar. 14, 2 PM

Legendary Irish musician Seamus Egan plays the Celtic flute, tenor banjo, guitar, mandolin, and tin whistle, among other instruments. From his beginnings as a teen prodigy, to this founding of the Irish-American powerhouse with friends and musical guests, Egan has helped define the sound of Irish music today.

## AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET

Mar. 20, 8 PM

Highly acclaimed artists Falu Shah (vocals), Clay Ross (guitar/vocals), Clarence Penn (drums), and Yasushi Nakamura (bass) showcase the dynamic diversity of contemporary culture by reimagining timeless songs from America's past.

## SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage

Mar. 25 - 29

Set near her hometown of Reading, Penn., Pulitzer prize-winning SWEAT details the lives of a close knit group of friends who have been affected by their factory closing, ending the only way of life the town has known for generations.

## THE TOXIC AVENGER THE MUSICAL

By Joe Dipietro and David Bryan

Apr. 8 - 18

## WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES

WPS 2019 "Across the Aisle" by Alyssa Haddad

April 14, 21, 28

This series is dedicated to providing a working forum for the unique voice of women writing for theatre today. The WPS has helped to develop the work of over 70 playwrights from around the country, producing more than 16 world premieres on the CSC mainstage. Staged readings are followed by a lively discussion with the playwrights and casts.

## STUDENT DANCE CONCERT

April 28, 7:30 PM

## TURNING

By Darrah Cloud

Apr. 22 - May 2

In the heart of 1930s Newark, a group of scrappy young women began to train in backyard gyms for what would become the experience of a lifetime—the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Inspired by the real life stories of Hackettstown resident Ada Lunardon and members of the U.S. Gymnastics Team, along with the memoirs of track gold medalist Jesse Owens.

## MOE-TION DANCE THEATER

May 15, 8 PM

"Artistic Director Maureen Glennon's choreography has the ring of truth," says New Jersey dance critic Robert Johnson, and her work has been called "refreshing, wise, and grounded in experience." Known for their site-specific work, Glennon's company is dedicated to creating new forms of expression through movement and dance.

## DANCE PROJECT

May 22, 8 PM

Under the artistic direction of Nijawwon Matthews, the XY Dance Project has a unique movement style that blends contemporary dance through the spiritual rhythms of African dance, the grace and peace of Tai Chi, and the heart.

## YOUNG AUDIENCE SERIES (YAS)

Bringing Literature from Page to Stage

On-site and on tour

Shake It Up Shakespeare – Apr. 10, 11 a.m.

## YOUNG PERFORMERS WORKSHOP (YPW)

Spring: Feb. 13 – May 30

Spring Show: May 21 - 30

Summer: Jul. 12 - Aug. 15

Summer Show: Aug. 6 - 15

A marathon of musicals by this state-acclaimed program is the culmination of each 15-week training session for young thespians ages 8 - 18. The YPW is dedicated to the enrichment of young lives through experience in theatre arts, and is one of only a handful in the nation that offers both formal training and a dynamic production experience for young people.

## Road to Success



As a wealth management adviser, **Kyle Malavasi '14** is committed to helping others succeed. At Main Street Wealth Management in Bedminster, N.J., he creates financial plans that build a secure future for his clients. "I've always wanted to help people," explained Malavasi, a Centenary business major who graduated with concentrations in general

management and sports management. "What I do is impactful on people's everyday lives."

Work isn't the only place Malavasi makes a big impact. About two years after graduation, he began volunteering as a member of Centenary's Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB). His focus: engaging young alumni to build stronger connections with their *alma mater*. Now the AAEB's co-treasurer, he helps to plan events for alumni to network, socialize, and advance their careers. The AAEB recently sponsored Centenary Stays Connected, a virtual fall speaker series, and is planning additional events for the spring semester.

As a high school senior, Malavasi was recruited by several universities for basketball. He visited Centenary and immediately felt at home: "I knew when I walked onto campus that Centenary was for me. I loved the coaching staff and the campus—that's what really drew me in." He later went on to be a team captain for the Cyclones.

Intending to pursue a career in sports management, Malavasi got to know Associate Professor of Sports Management David Perricone. For a senior year project, Malavasi single-handedly organized a 5k run/walk to raise funds for Easter Seals. "I knew at that point that giving back was going to be an important part of my life going forward," Malavasi recalled. After graduation, he decided the best way to accomplish that goal was to enter the financial services field. "This is a very tough industry to get into," he said. "A lot of the lessons that got me here, I learned at Centenary."

Today, Malavasi connects with fellow graduates through AAEB events, as well as near-daily calls with his former Cyclone basketball teammates. "Being a student-athlete was a crucial part of my personal growth," he said. "Some of my best friends for life, I met at Centenary. I want to be part of the success of this University."

seems we have all had to slow down on our social activities, which have made us appreciate more the little things in life, like what a glorious spring we had putting in our garden, talking to all our neighbors—many new ones who were now venturing forth on bikes, skateboards, rollerblades, or out for just a good walk or run.

"We love being in touch with our 17 grandchildren and hearing the challenges they all are facing with their schooling, jobs, and sports. At the moment, we are very excited for our granddaughter, Carly, whose passion is volleyball. She just started her junior year in high school. Recently, she was contacted by 35 colleges and has narrowed her choice down to seven, all of which have good engineering courses. We just heard she has an offer from the Air Force Academy (had to brag!). The best part is that she is so humble about her hard work to master her sport and is a sweet all-around great girl.

"I am again struggling with three kinds of vertigo and am back at Marianjoy Rehab for outpatient vestibular therapy. I am always networking, looking for anyone who has had successful treatments. If any of our classmates has information or suggestions about this or knows of someone in a similar situation, please feel free to get in touch with me. My email address is mariankindl@aol.com."

**Nancy Heimert Zabka** writes: "Stan and I are managing to hide from the virus so far. Who would ever have thought that in our 'golden years' we would be experiencing such a chaotic (in so many ways!) world. Earlier this year, we were stuck in the house because of the hazardous air quality from the terrible fires all around us in northern California. We had a scare that forced us into evacuation mode for a while, but thankfully, we were spared. We remained alert until our fire season ended in November, as it could have happened at any time. Otherwise,

we're enjoying the extra time to stay in touch with family and friends by phone, Zoom, FaceTime, email, and texts. We do get together socially with a few close friends occasionally. Our very exciting news is that our son, Billy's, show, *Cobra Kai*, has been on the top 10 list of shows streaming on Netflix since the end of August."

**Joann McVey O'Brien** writes: "I had a CT scan for my lung cancer recently and was told everything was clear. Just hoping it doesn't show up somewhere else. We headed to Florida at the beginning of October. Hope all is well with our classmates."

**Janice Auer Scrabis** writes: "I still stay very close and have wonderful conversations (at least an hour each time) with my 'buddy **June' Adams Salaun**. We reminisce, compare our lives, pains, and issues, but most of all, we laugh. I am still in Avon-by-the-Sea, where I grew up, living with my ex-husband (yes, you read that right). My youngest daughter, her husband, and Abby, 11, and Johnny, 4, live in my front house, which sustained terrible damage from Superstorm Sandy. We were safe and stressless, staying in the house because of my animals during the storm. I was able to have the house lifted and put back together at life-changing expense. Every so often, I touch base with **Sally Swan Schwabe**, who was my roommate at Penn State University, and she sounds great. I retired from my antique and tearoom co-op business in 2012 and now watch my grandchildren on certain days. My oldest daughter, Amy, has lived in Bath, England, for 28 years with her husband, Simon, and two daughters. My son, Bobby, lives close by and has a daughter, Mei. Because of all the athletics and lugging I did in my business (and in my marriage-ha!), I had two knee replacements in 2016, which were so worth it. I hope this finds our classmates and families well and, like all of us dealing with a different way

## 1949 Penpal with 1969



Margaret Pfeiffer McCann '49



of life, we can get through this together. Classmates can reach me at (732) 337-3769."

**Janice Jobin Kilgore** writes: "We've had a beautiful summer in Minnesota, though much more humidity than normal. We won't be taking a trip this winter unless the COVID situation improves tremendously. We had plans to visit two of our grandsons in Colorado and one in England this summer, but that was canceled. We hope a vaccine rolls out soon so we can do that next summer. I am a new player of Mahjong and I really like it. I've made three new friends since joining a group. They are wonderful women and I feel so fortunate to have them in my life.

"We have two granddaughters attending Moorhead University. They have both in-person classes and online. One of them tested positive for COVID and, so far, her only symptom is being very tired. Rich and I and our families feel very blessed with good health. Best wishes to my Class of 1961, and I hope you all stay well and safe."

**Ann Watson Mangels** writes: "It's amazing how things happen when we least expect it. Bill and I are moving to a critical care retirement community called Broadmead in Cockeysville, Md., sometime soon. The date hasn't been confirmed yet because of all the backups and problems with supplies, a far-reaching effect of COVID-19. In the meantime, we have been decluttering our house off and on for a year-and-a-half while waiting. We just learned that we should be in our new abode before the end of the year—welcome news!

"Now for the rest of the story: With all our packing and going through stuff we hadn't seen for years, I came upon the Centenary College Class of 1961 50th Reunion booklet. I had put it away and forgotten about it and enjoyed so much catching up with our classmates again, even after another nine years have gone by. I have read every page, looked at every picture, and relived so many happy times at Centenary. It was such a surprise to find. Then, when we were asked for our news for the *Centenarian*, I felt I needed to say how much I appreciated looking at the memory book again and remembering old friends. It was a very happy two years spent growing up and, of course, meeting Bill.

"We will miss our home where we've been for over 50 years, but we decided it will be very nice to let loose from the many responsibilities we have here and let someone else do the cooking, provide the entertainment, take care of the grounds, etc. Jim, our younger son, his wife, and our granddaughter live in Cockeysville, about 10 minutes from our new home. John and his family all live in Alabama, some near Birmingham and the others in Daphne, near Mobile. They had a rough time during the recent hurricane, but traveled to Mississippi, where they stayed for several days.

"We are blessed to be healthy and able to take care of ourselves. COVID-19 really put a damper on so much, but an offshoot is that everyone seemed to learn to Zoom very quickly. I hope our Centenary friends are getting along under whatever undue conditions remain, including wearing masks, six-foot spacing, and strict requirements for being with others."

## 1969

**Betsy Braun Andreini-Thomas**

1784 22nd Ave NE  
Naples, FL 34120-5428  
ebandreini@comcast.net

**Betsy Braun Andreini-Thomas** writes: "My COVID pen pal, **Margaret Pfeiffer McCann '49**, has written me nine notes since she first saw my name and address in the *Centenarian*. Her son also wrote me a letter and emailed some photos of Margaret, who had lived in Naples for a while with her husband. At age 91, she is now in assisted living in Akron, Ohio. It has been an old-fashioned pen pal experience and her memories of Naples in the earlier years are delightful. It's been a pleasure and an honor getting to know her."

## 2009

**Caitlin Hacker Parenteau**

writes: "This year I became a mother. My son, Raymond Kenneth, was nine months old on Nov. 15. He has been a wonderful addition to our family. I am still working in the real estate field as a sales associate for Weichert Realtors in Sparta and have made some adjustments to accommodate for the safety of my family during the pandemic."



## 2015

**Anthony LaManna** was named a police officer in Mount Olive, N.J., after completing the Mount Olive Police Department Field Training Program.

## 2016

**Cody Wooten** published a blog post, "Investing in the Future Shouldn't Be an Afterthought," in *The Chronicle of the Horse*. The post urges equine professionals to explore investing and planning for retirement. Cody is a hunter/jumper professional currently working as an assistant trainer for Caitlyn Shiels' True North Stables, based in Illinois and Florida.

# Her Heart is at Centenary



For **Gloria Blake Kehler '50**, Centenary University will always be home. In fact, the stately Hackett-stown duplex she shares with her grandson and his family is located across the street from campus—and once served as a Centenary dormitory.

During Kehler's student days, a professor and his family lived on one side

of the duplex, with students and a "dorm mother" occupying the other side. In a throwback to those collegial days, all of the bedrooms in the home still have individual sinks, installed for the convenience of students who shared a bathroom and shower. "I've seen Centenary grow from a small junior college to a University," mused Kehler, who still walks across the street to campus often. "I've seen big changes over the years, including the type of students who come to Centenary. It's very diversified now, which is a good thing."

Born on nearby Schooley's Mountain, Kehler was the first in her family to attend college. Like many Centenary students through the decades, she worked her way through school, juggling classes with jobs in the bursar's and admissions offices, the switchboard, and at the deli counter of the local Grand Union market. After graduation, she married Richard Kehler, a successful insurance salesman, and devoted herself to raising the couple's six children, all of whom attended college. Today, the couple also have 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Seventy years ago, as the Class of 1950 prepared for their graduation, they adopted the motto, "Not to make a living, but to nobly make a life." Since the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented them from returning to campus for their 70th reunion, Centenary University President **Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.**, invited Kehler to visit the Edward W. Seay Administration Building for some socially distanced reminiscing. In honor of her class, Dr. Murphy presented Kehler with a presidential coin, custom engraved with her name and the words "nobly make a life." "That's exactly what you did," Dr. Murphy said.

Fondly recalling classmates and her years as a Centenary student, Kehler said, "Centenary broadened my view of the whole world. I think it made me a better person and a better mother."

# Welcome, Legacies!

Centenary University has become a family tradition for the children and grandchildren of many alumni. This year, the University enrolls at least 15 legacy students, who are eligible to be considered for a Centenary University legacy scholarship.

One newly-enrolled legacy is **Kate Stout '24** (left), a third generation Cyclone. Stout is the granddaughter of the late **Virginia Arnold Stout '50** and great-granddaughter of **Edythe Jackson Hankinson, Class of 1915**. Her great-great-aunt, **Minnie Jackson, Class of 1913**, was also a graduate. Despite the strong family connection, it was Centenary's excellent education program that ultimately clinched Kate's decision to attend the University. The future teacher said: "Centenary has a great education program. A lot of my former teachers are graduates and told me about the benefits of attending Centenary." Also pictured is Stout's mother, **Theresa A. Lord-Stout**, the University's executive director of wellness.



\*\*\*\*\*



Minnie Jackson, Class of 1913



Edythe Jackson Hankinson, Class of 1915



Virginia Arnold Stout '50

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Bryan Watkinson '07

Brooke Smith Westenberg '13

## New Chair Elected for Board of Trustees



The Centenary University Board of Trustees has elected respected veteran fundraiser **Rochelle A. Makela-Goodman '97** to chair the University's governing body for a renewable four-year term effective Jan. 1. She replaces retiring board Chair **Wolfgang Gstatenbauer '84/13 HA**, who will retain an emeritus seat on the board.

Makela-Goodman has been a member of the board since 2009, previously serving as second vice chair. In 2019, she chaired the search for the president of the University resulting in the hiring of **Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.** She said, "I am honored to

lead the Centenary University Board of Trustees at a pivotal time for education in our country. Centenary has served the learning needs of a diverse community since its founding in 1867 and continues to transform lives today. I look forward to advancing this critical asset for the region, the state, and beyond."

As director of gift planning at Princeton University, Makela-Goodman manages a team of philanthropic advisers who assist donors with deferred, life income, and estate gifts that advance the mission of Princeton. She began her distinguished career in fundraising as Centenary's director of corporate and foundation relations before serving as an assistant vice president at Lehigh University. In addition to serving on the Centenary University Board of Trustees, Makela-Goodman has also been a member of the University's President's Circle, the precursor to today's President's Advisory Council, since 2005.

## Alumni Association Executive Board Names New President

**Carol V. Allen '72/74** has been elected president of the Alumni Association Executive Board for a two-year term effective March 14, 2020. "I look forward to working with the Alumni Association Executive Board and our dedicated alumni to advance the mission of Centenary University, while maintaining our traditions," she said. "This group shares a strong commitment to supporting the future of the University and its students."

The recipient of the first bachelor of arts degree presented by Centenary, Carol was also awarded the University's Jan Howard Spirit Award, Everett Johnson Prize, George E. and Blanche B. Denman All-Round Athlete Prize, and Lotte Honors, the most coveted and highest honor award at graduation voted on by the Centenary community. After her college graduation, Carol spent many years working at the University, including as an admissions counselor, assistant dean of students, associate dean of students, director of residential living and student life, and director of special giving. Carol spent her entire tenure at Centenary as an instructor and a coach.

Later in her career, Carol ran her own catering company, as well as her family's antiques and gift shop. In addition, she served as a teaching specialist at Twin Spring Farm School & Day Camp in Ambler, Pa., owned by **Beatrice R. Hood '49**. Hood's two daughters, **Wendy Hood Constantine '71** and **Karen Hood Salvatori '84**, attended Centenary.

Carol is looking forward to the future through treasured traditions referenced in *Through Golden Years: 1867-1943*, a book by Leila Custard recounting the history of Centenary.



## President's Advisory Council (PAC)

Angela Rodriguez Moore '90, Chair  
Ellen Banks '93  
Nancy Keely Bell '61  
Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78  
Claire Couch Bosee '54  
Brenda Bailey Carter '60  
Lucinda Thomas Embersits '59  
Dr. Christine Siciliano Floether '87  
Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97  
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Jaime Ponce '05  
Susan Gordon Posner '58  
C. Joy Riddell '58  
Joanne Risko '97

Suzanne Wallbank Rowland '57  
Arlene Shorter Young, Ed.D. '96/99  
Dorothy Spach Siegel '59 (Doll)  
Janet Kipp Tribus '62  
Kathleen Lascky Turner '70  
Gail Bergenback Vigna '57  
Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62  
Bruce Murphy Ed.D.  
Karen DiMaria

## Champion for Research



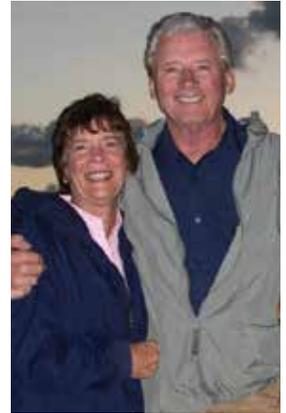
Many of the scientific research opportunities available to Centenary University students can be traced to the generosity of **Carol Harvey Barrows '61**. The dedicated alumna passed away on October 11, 2020, leaving a legacy that has positioned the University to grow its reputation in the sciences.

A nutrition major at Centenary, Mrs. Barrows and her husband, Bill, stepped up often to ensure that the University's students have access to top-notch facilities and research programs. In 2016, the couple helped to fund the transformation of Trevor Hall laboratories into modern facilities with new lab space, technology, fittings, and lighting.

Two years earlier, a chance encounter with a science major at Mrs. Barrows' 50th Centenary reunion led the couple to contribute a major gift for an annual scholarship that sends the University's students to conduct summer research at Florida's renowned Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Lauren Bergey, Ph.D., professor of biology and dean of special academic programs, said, "Carol and Bill have a long history of philanthropy and donated to many organizations. Centenary University has been fortunate that they found our science programs worthy and invested in the future of our science students

over the last decade. Carol was a compassionate woman who always thought fondly of her alma mater and wanted our current students to thrive as she did at Centenary. Carol and Bill always asked about the students they sponsored years after the students graduated. Carol had a personal interest in each one of the James Pomponi Memorial Scholarship recipients. Over the years, Carol had become a true friend to Centenary and myself. She will be sorely missed."

For their support, the couple were awarded Centenary's prestigious Gold Dome Award in 2014. Mrs. Barrows leaves her beloved husband Bill. Her daughter Nancy Fuller and husband Ken, and their two children Joshua Fuller and Tyler Fuller, and Tyler's daughter JoJo. Her son Dan Johnson and wife Kimberly, and their five children Tyler Johnson, Audrey Johnson, Happle Randolph, Gray Randolph, and Ellyson Randolph. Her niece Rachel Harvey, and her son Arturo. Her nephew Dr. David Harvey and wife Mahvash, and their three children - Zach, Parissa, and Sheyda. Bill's son, Jay Barrows and sons Corey and Eric Barrows and their mother Ann. Corey's wife Lauren, and Eric Barrows son's Liam and Mason.



Carol Harvey Barrows '61 and Bill Barrows

## Passion for Justice



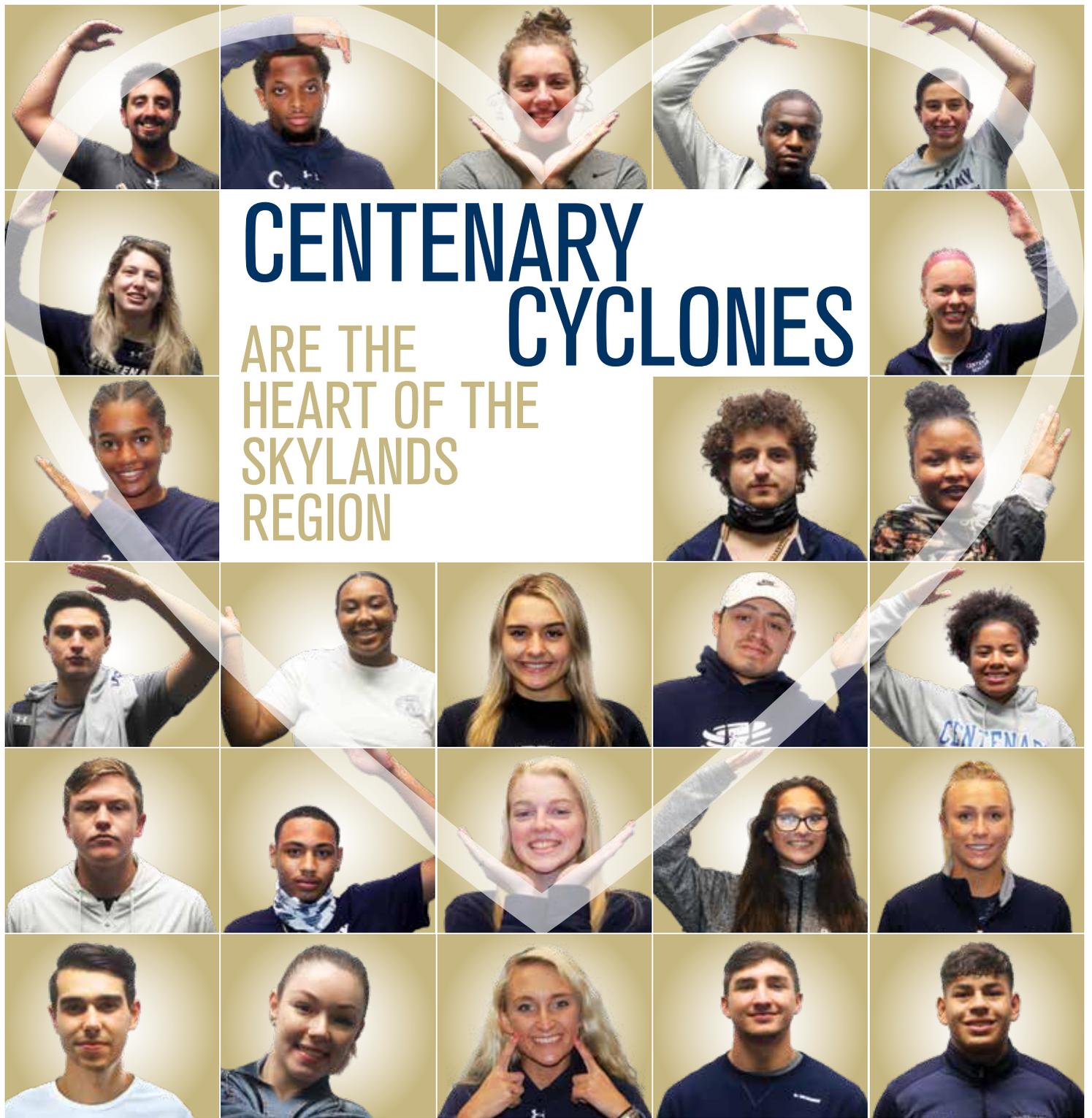
For **Kaitlin Cowley '12**, a passion to help others led her to accept a law enforcement job in Louisiana, where she was killed in the line of duty on April 20 when her vehicle hit a tree. She was a probation and parole agent with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

The recipient of a Centenary University master's degree in leadership and public

administration, Officer Cowley started her career as a juvenile detention officer in Morris County. She was posthumously awarded the FBI-New Orleans Field Office 2020 Memorial Award and the American Police Hall of Fame Medal of Honor. In addition, her name will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., and a law enforcement memorial wall in Baton Rouge, La. She is survived by her husband, David Fichtenkort; her parents, James and Karen Cowley; her brother, James Cowley Jr., and a nephew, Liam Cowley.

## In Memoriam

<b>Johanne Barthelemy '14</b> .....	<b>9/28/20</b>	<b>Gail Donovan '61</b> .....	<b>9/23/20</b>	<b>Terri Holmes Kemp '66</b> .....	<b>9/6/20</b>
<b>Margot Nelson Carey '55</b> .....	<b>11/11/20</b>	<b>Elise Quinn Harman '50</b> .....	<b>1/7/20</b>	<b>Hae-Jong Kim, D.Min. Trustee</b> .....	<b>11/3/20</b>
<b>Bette Bodor Coningsby '57</b> .....	<b>8/18/20</b>	<b>Elizabeth Smith Hennessy '53</b> .....	<b>4/15/20</b>	<b>Juanita Leonard Koch '49</b> .....	<b>5/31/20</b>
<b>Kaitlin Cowley '12</b> .....	<b>4/20/20</b>	<b>Celia Redman Holmes '37</b> .....	<b>7/25/20</b>	<b>Jeanne Young Runge '46</b> .....	<b>6/14/20</b>
<b>Karen Cooke DeVigne '63</b> .....	<b>1/5/20</b>	<b>Frank Hooper '95 HA</b> .....	<b>8/6/20</b>	<b>Sandra Quay Wilch '54</b> .....	<b>6/10/20</b>



# CENTENARY CYCLONES

ARE THE  
HEART OF THE  
SKYLANDS  
REGION

**Centenary University student-athletes know they have a tremendous responsibility: Your decisions play a big part in determining when Cyclone teams will be back in action. We look to you as campus leaders to encourage the responsible masking, social distancing, and hand-washing that are so critical to curbing the spread of COVID-19 on campus. We're proud of you, Cyclones. You are the heart of Centenary University.**

## WE ARE CYCLONE PROUD

*Left to right: Anthony Ranaudo, Baseball, Junior • Tyler White, Men's Basketball, Junior • Jessica Mckenzie, Women's Basketball, Junior • Ellis Brown, Cross Country, Junior  
Meghan Barone, Women's Basketball and Cross Country, Junior • Jenyfer Pereira, Field Hockey and Women's Lacrosse, Sophomore • Amanda Lebelt, Women's Soccer, Junior  
Roxana Gonzalez, Softball, Junior • Paul Links, Baseball, Junior • Carmen Escano, Women's Basketball, Sophomore • Mahir Yilmaz, Men's Basketball and Men's Soccer, Sophomore  
Sydnie Bogan, Field Hockey, Sophomore • Martina Josifoska, Volleyball, Freshman • Sean Menjivar, Men's Lacrosse, Junior • Chelsea Estacio, Women's Soccer, Sophomore  
Shane Wilson, Men's Soccer, Junior • Jacy Jones, Wrestling, Junior • Maggie Lenahan, Softball, Sophomore • Amelia Rodriguez, Volleyball, Junior • Cassidy Haller, Cross Country, Senior  
Christopher Festa, Men's Lacrosse, Junior • Amanda Tietjen, Women's Lacrosse, Junior • Kristin Bell, Women's Lacrosse, Senior • Cameron Bruffy, Wrestling, Junior • Kenneth Pinedo, Men's Soccer, Junior*



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