Apocalypse Averted
How Edward Liddy Helped Pull the U.S. Back From the Brink
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By Very Rev. David M. O’Connell, C.M., J.C.D. 1990, President

It was the toughest day of my life and the most difficult decision. My youngest brother lay comatose in a hospital, ravaged by swine flu and pneumonia in both lungs. He had been my mother’s principal caretaker since my father’s death five years ago. I brought Mom to Washington to care for her awhile. She is 83, has great difficulty walking and suffers from dementia, the result of several strokes suffered during hip surgery a few years back.

I loved every minute of the almost two months we spent together, from early November until after Christmas. For the past 12 years I have lived alone, so the company of my mother was a joy! There were challenges with the arrangement, given my schedule and obligations as president, but this time of year required me to be on campus more than off. Our students were wonderful, offering to stay with her when I had to travel or attend an evening function. And she enjoyed their company and conversation.

Many of us in the baby-boom generation face the situation of caring for elderly parents. I know I am not alone. Suffice it to say, that doesn’t make it easier. For me, just the sound of her voice when we spoke, the smile on her face when I brought her some hot tea or candy, the stories she told me about her early life are memories I shall treasure forever. It saddened me to see her in a state of steady decline, though, knowing that my once vibrant, happy and loving mother was slipping away.

She would ask a thousand times a day, “How old am I?” “Why am I here?” “When can I go home?” She wasn’t always sure who I was or what connection she had with me. At times, she wasn’t sure who she was. Other times, she was as bright and lucid as I remembered from years ago. Those moments gave me great hope — maybe she was getting better! But they didn’t last long and she would slip back into confusion.

In the morning, I would dispense her multiple medications. “Why am I taking these?” she would ask. I cooked her meals, washed her clothes, made her bed, prepared her shower, helped her dress, and then I would disappear for the day’s work. Lucky for me, I could pop in on her during the day, join her for lunch and supper, and just simply sit and watch TV with her at night.

I often thought about the reversal of roles, becoming a “parent” to my mother. I didn’t mind it, but I could feel some melancholy come over me. As I put her to bed at night, I would sit on the edge of her bed to put her at ease. It never failed, as I turned out the light, that she would say, “I love you, hon.” Many nights, those words would be greeted by my tears as well as my own “I love you, too, Mom.” I knew the arrangement could not last and it broke my heart.

“Why am I here?” she asked as I walked to the door of her room, the same question as before. I knew that my feeble answer would not matter and that she would not remember it. She had no memory at all of being with me for the past two months. But I do and always will. And I will always be grateful for it.

As I left her behind that first day, sad beyond all telling, I passed a statue of the Blessed Mother. I thought for a moment, Your Son had to leave you once in the care of others. And I prayed with all my heart, Take good care of her. And my brothers and I will, too.
During the 12 years of Father David O’Connell’s presidency, Catholic University has flourished, with record growth in enrollments, fundraising and endowment. He has overseen the construction of three new residence halls and a new university center, and the renovation of 15 campus buildings. On his watch the university accomplished two goals — the acquisition of 49 acres of property on its western border and the launch of the redevelopment of its South Campus — that will have profound implications for CUA for decades to come. To top it all off, on April 17, 2008, he hosted a visit by Pope Benedict XVI.

At the end of this summer, Father O’Connell will step down and pass the mantle of leadership to a new president, for whom a search is currently under way.

To honor Father O’Connell’s service to the university, CUA’s Board of Trustees decided unanimously on Dec. 15, 2009, to rename Cardinal Hall in his honor. The building’s name will be officially changed to Father O’Connell Hall during a dinner ceremony in early June to celebrate his accomplishments as the university’s 14th president.

The renaming follows a distinguished precedent: Six other campus buildings are named in honor of former rectors and presidents.

CUA alumnus Ed Gillespie, chair of the board’s development committee, will co-chair a committee of CUA trustees that will solicit donations to aid in funding the renovations needed in the renamed building. The campaign is called the Father O’Connell Legacy Fund.

“I’m excited about us being able to honor Father O’Connell for his dedicated and successful service to CUA, and at the same time help renovate one of our most cherished landmarks,” says Gillespie, formerly chairman of the Republican National Committee and counselor to President George W. Bush. “Cardinal Hall is a beautiful building, and in many ways the heart of the campus. Renaming it for our second-longest-serving president and using that honor to help raise the money needed to restore the building will be a fitting and lasting tribute to a man whose tenure will leave a lasting impact on our school.”

The renovations to Cardinal Hall, a stately Collegiate Gothic structure built in 1914, have been a priority for Father O’Connell during his tenure, especially considering the building’s prime location facing Michigan Avenue. Instead of a half-vacant architectural gem, the restored building would become a new student business hub, transforming 70,000 square feet of space into an efficient, modern center through which students would enter the life of the university. The new Father O’Connell Hall would become the university’s Enrollment Management Center, bringing together the offices of admissions, financial aid, enrollment services (including student accounts) and student housing to meet the needs of prospective and current students. This would make tasks such as enrolling, paying bills, selecting a room and registering for classes a convenient “one-stop shopping” experience.

The renovated Cardinal Hall will also house the Office of Alumni Relations, signaling the university’s commitment to provide its graduates with an easily accessible center in the heart of campus life.

Of the projected $15 million cost of the renovation, approximately $10 million has been pledged so far.

Preliminary work on Cardinal Hall has already begun. Renovations have been made to the building’s original Gothic tracery windows, and new energy-efficient roofing has been installed. Workers have also repaired the mortar between the masonry in the building’s walls.

Those who wish to contribute to the Father O’Connell Legacy Fund should contact the Office of University Development at 202-319-6910. For more information about the campaign, visit http://giving.cuatoday.com/legacyfund.

— L.C.
$60,000 for Haitian Earthquake Victims

Within 24 hours of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12, student groups were forming at CUA to respond to the disaster. The result, “CUA Cares — A Novena of Prayer and Action for the People of Haiti,” included three initiatives: educating the campus community, encouraging prayer and raising funds to support those affected by the disaster.

The novena began with a Mass on Thursday, Jan. 14. From then on, students gathering nightly in residence hall communities prayed a novena prayer written for the cause.

From Jan. 14 to 22, the student-led initiative collected more than $28,000 from students, faculty, staff and others. The university matched these funds and supplemented them to bring the total CUA contribution to $60,000. All of the proceeds were sent to Catholic Relief Services, which is helping the Haitian people.

“CUA’s response to the Haiti earthquake was an inspiration,” said Father David O’Connell, university president, in a statement to the faculty, staff and students. “We are especially proud of the student-led initiatives, which showed such a strong desire to help people in need.”

Money was collected at the university center, athletic events, university Masses and a concert given by a student a cappella group. Even out-of-town visitors who came to campus before the annual March for Life were solicited by CUA students.

Harnessing the Sun

Up to 20 percent of the electricity used by four campus buildings is now being produced by solar energy. Late last year, 1,088 solar panels were installed on 30,233 square feet of rooftop on Aquinas, Flather and Gibbons halls and the Raymond A. DuFour Center.

The 294-kilowatt system, installed at no cost to CUA, is owned and operated by Washington Gas Energy Services (WGES). Last fall, CUA signed a 20-year agreement with WGES to purchase electricity generated by the solar panels — about 340,000 kilowatt hours a year — at guaranteed prices.

Over the course of a year, 10 to 20 percent of the electricity used by the four buildings will come from solar energy. In terms of the amount of electricity produced, the panels comprise the largest solar-energy system in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

The 3-by-6-foot solar panels, installed at a five-degree angle and not visible from the ground, convert sunlight into electricity. “Electricity is produced even on cloudy days, although in smaller amounts, because panels still collect energy from the sun,” says Brian Alexander, CUA’s director of energy and utilities management.

By using the solar-energy system, CUA will produce 294 fewer tons of carbon emissions annually, the equivalent of the carbon emissions created by the use of 30,300 gallons of gasoline.

The project has provided teaching moments: Undergraduates in the School of Engineering’s new alternative-energy concentration have toured the installation and graduate students in the School of Architecture and Planning’s sustainable-design program have learned about the installation in class.

The “teachable moment” provided by the advent of solar power at CUA has been extended to encompass a CUA competition open to all students. Teams are being invited to design a functional picnic table with the capability of storing and supplying electric power generated from solar-energy panels. The winning design will be named in April 2010, the month the world will mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.
Unveiling More Professional Master’s Programs

CUA is continuing the process of unveiling new professional master’s degree programs. Among those that will launch during the fall 2010 semester are programs in business, biotechnology, materials science and nuclear environmental protection.

“We have carefully studied market trends and have developed programs that represent career paths that are growing in the greater D.C. area and beyond,” says CUA Provost James Brennan. “In keeping with the university’s strategic plan, since 2008 we have launched or made preparations to introduce more than 10 new graduate degrees, certificates and specializations, most of them tailored to working professionals.”

Master of Science in Business Analysis: This one-year full-time degree program is designed as a bridge for recent non-business graduates wishing to begin careers in business, government or the nonprofit world. The program will match students with mentors in the business field and give them the tools needed to compete with business majors for that critical first job.

The M.S.B.A. features a unique curriculum based on Catholic social teaching and the belief that commerce is a service to society.

“What business leaders are so desperately seeking today are honest, hard-working team players — men and women of uncompromising integrity,” says Andrew Abela, chair of business and economics. This new program will seek to respond to that need. For more information, visit http://msba.cua.edu.

Master of Science in Biotechnology: This program will prepare its recipients for an expanding number of jobs in biotechnology. One think tank projects that nationwide biotechnology employment will grow by 1.6 percent each year through 2014.

The biotechnology field offers career opportunities in pharmaceutical development, agriculture, research laboratories, medical device development and environmental remediation.

The program can be completed part time in two or more years and will incorporate hands-on scientific research through internships with biotechnology companies and government agencies. In addition, CUA is offering a five-year combined B.S. degree in biology/M.S. degree in biotechnology. For further information, visit http://biotechnology.cua.edu.

Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering: Many fields of science and engineering are concerned with materials selection and design. As a result, this degree program is expected to draw a diversity of full- and part-time students interested in enhancing their careers.

Offered by the School of Engineering in close collaboration with the School of Arts and Sciences, the program will emphasize advances in existing and emerging technologies in five areas: nanotechnology; biomaterials; magnetic and optical materials; glasses, ceramics and metallurgy; and processing/fabrication and instrumentation. Full-time students will be able to obtain this master’s degree in one year, part timers in two years. For more information, visit http://materialsscience.cua.edu.

Master of Science in Nuclear Environmental Protection: Societal concern about energy sustainability and global warming has led to renewed focus on nuclear power, now being touted as one of the more promising near-term, low-carbon energy sources. This U.S. “nuclear renaissance” has led to the need to train additional nuclear professionals.

As part of a government effort to bolster America’s nuclear education infrastructure, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission awarded CUA’s Vitreous State Laboratory $240,000 to develop the curriculum for this new degree. The one-year program, which can also be completed part time in two to three years, focuses on the nuclear fuel cycle, waste management and environmental protection.

Nuclear environmental protection has long been VSL’s vocation and, over the past decade, the laboratory has received more than $70 million dollars in sponsored research and development funding for the transformation and safe storage of nuclear waste. Students will participate in research at VSL or — via an internship — at a private company or government entity. For more information, visit http://nep.cua.edu.

Other New Master’s Programs: The menu of other new professional master’s programs includes the following: city and regional planning; sustainable architectural design; library leadership and management; literacy, language and technology; management (with specialization tracks in federal acquisition and contract management, leadership, human resource management, professional communication, and sport management); and human resource management (with specialization tracks in HR generalist and federal HR).
Mysterious Rembrandt Found

In 1998, just a few months after Father David O’Connell became president of CUA, he opened the bathroom closet in his office area in Nugent Hall looking for paper towels.

“I found the paper towels,” he recalls, “but as I was closing the cabinet door, I noticed on the bottom shelf under some junk, a picture frame jutting out. I bent down, pulled out the frame and discovered an etching that looked familiar to me.”

It looked like a Rembrandt. In fact, Rembrandt’s name was written on it, along with an inscription in French on the back saying, “the bust of an old man with a great beard seen about most of the face … His head a little perched gives him the attitude of a man who sleeps.”

Just last year, CUA consulted a specialist in prints and publications who confirmed that the 4½-by-5-inch etching was made by the world-famous 17th-century Dutch painter. However, since hundreds of Rembrandt’s etchings have been preserved and since the one in CUA’s possession isn’t one of the master’s well-known works, it isn’t worth a king’s ransom.

Initially Father O’Connell had no idea how the etching came to be located in the bathroom closet. But he now believes that the Rembrandt may have been acquired by Monsignor James Magner, a former vice rector of the university and director of the university press, who may have subsequently donated it to CUA. Father O’Connell speculates that the etching was taken off the wall and placed in the closet while painting and other renovations were under way in preparation for his move into Nugent Hall as CUA’s 14th president.

Though some mystery will continue to surround the Rembrandt discovery, the university hasn’t had any doubts about the benefit of taking advantage of the discovery for educational purposes.

Medieval and Byzantine Program Turns 40

For four decades, Catholic University has been advancing knowledge of the medieval world and its cultures through a formal program of medieval and Byzantine studies. To celebrate the milestone, CUA’s Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies is hosting special events to promote understanding of the medieval period.

To kick off the 40th anniversary, the center hosted a book party in December featuring 15 faculty members who talked about their recently published books (shown above).

The celebration continues this year with a four-lecture series by former directors of the center. That series concludes with an April 21 roundtable discussion by six faculty members on “The State of Medieval Studies: Some Disciplinary Perspectives.”

CUA’s Medieval and Byzantine Studies Program was organized in 1969 under the direction of an interdepartmental committee in order to facilitate advanced research into the medieval period in subject areas that require a multidisciplinary background. The Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies was established in 1997, creating office and meeting-room space for the program and bringing together faculty from the schools of arts and sciences, theology and religious studies, philosophy, canon law and music.

Today, more than 40 faculty members contribute to the center, which offers undergraduate and graduate studies.

Participation from various schools within the university “allows students and faculty to cross divisions that sometimes separate people,” says Lourdes Alvarez, director of the center and associate professor of modern languages and literatures. The center “is a place that still understands the importance of the medieval world and all its complexity and contradictions.”

“Catholic University has one of the largest, richest concentrations of faculty expertise in every branch of medieval studies in all of North America, and that fact was a principal reason why I came to CUA to join the faculty many years ago,” says Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences L.R. Poos, a scholar of medieval history. “This celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Medieval and Byzantine Studies coincides with a very considerable reinvigoration of the program, including strategic planning and revisions of its undergraduate and master’s programs.”

The undergraduate major in medieval and Byzantine studies was revamped in 2009, enabling students to focus on the medieval West (with Latin as their major language), Byzantium (studying Greek) or the medieval Islamic world (studying Arabic). A new gateway course for undergraduate majors and minors, “Medieval Pathways,” made its debut in the spring 2010 semester, with four faculty members team-teaching the class. The course includes a module on manuscripts and the culture of the book, a module on Vikings, and a module on the interplay between Christians, Muslims and Jews in medieval Spain.
From Jan. 11 to May 24 of this year, the university is exhibiting the etching and other artworks in the May Gallery of the John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library. Titled “Fine Lines: Discovering Rembrandt and Other Old Masters at Catholic University,” the exhibition includes several other drawings, etchings, engravings and woodcut prints, all part the university’s museum collection. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Catholic University art professors have incorporated the exhibition into their courses, and all CUA students have been invited to create their own artworks inspired by the exhibition, with a prize to be given for the best entry. The students’ works are scheduled to be displayed from April 19 to May 24 in CUA’s Salve Regina Gallery.

South Campus Development Approved

On Dec. 21, the Washington, D.C., Zoning Commission gave final approval to a plan submitted by a firm working with CUA to redevelop the university’s South Campus. On the nine acres along Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street, N.E., that are currently home to Conaty, Spalding and Spellman halls, Abdo Development will build 761 residential units and 85,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space in buildings up to six stories high. Plans also call for a public square with a 70-foot-tall clock tower and an arts walk.

“The development of our South Campus will transform the area surrounding the front entrance to the university,” says Father David O’Connell, university president. “It will bring enormous benefits not only to CUA but also to our neighbors in the Brookland community.”

Following the spring 2010 semester, the university will vacate the three residence halls and begin the process of applying for permits to demolish them.
CUA Community Discusses Accreditation Self-Study

How should Catholic University enhance its undergraduate experience? What are some of the ways that CUA can retain exemplary faculty? How can the university increase the diversity of its student population?

These questions and others were raised by CUA faculty, staff and students during a series of town hall meetings devoted to discussion about Catholic University’s self-study report, which is a key part of the university’s 10-year accreditation review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The meetings, held in January in the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center, reflected “the importance of the university community’s role” in the accreditation process, said James Greene, dean of graduate studies and co-chair of CUA’s self-study task force.

In February, CUA submitted its 171-page self-study to a Middle States team of evaluators — faculty and administrators from peer institutions — who will visit CUA from April 11 through 14 to talk to students, faculty and staff, ask for their assessment of the university, and verify the self-study’s conclusions. The Middle States Commission evaluates all universities in D.C., New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware every 10 years before deciding whether to reaccredit them.

Shavaun Wall, associate vice president for academic planning and self-study co-chair, said she expects that at the end of the April visit, evaluation team chair Antoine M. Garibaldi (who is president of Gannon University, a Catholic institution in Erie, Pa.) will provide feedback to CUA administrators about his team’s findings and its response to the university’s self-study. His team’s report will then be submitted to the Middle States Commission for review and a decision on reaccreditation for CUA. The commission is expected to render its decision by the end of the year.

The CUA task force of 145 faculty, staff and students has been working for the past two years on the self-study, which addresses how the university meets the Middle States Commission’s standards. The report also documents the university’s progress in five areas: improving undergraduate education; enhancing support for graduate students; introducing new professional graduate programs; bringing in more research funding from foundations, corporations and the government; and designing a strategy for strengthening CUA’s financial base.

University Staff Stands Up to “Snowmageddon”

When two back-to-back blizzards dumped more than 2 feet of snow on Washington in early February, classes were cancelled for six days. But more than 2,000 resident students were cared for throughout the “Snowpocalypse.” On Feb. 18, Father O’Connell hosted a lunch for 180 facilities, food service and public safety personnel to thank them for their service to the students under extraordinary circumstances.
In Richard Wagner’s opera Tristan and Isolde, Tristan sings of his yearning for “death’s bliss” (Todeswonne), meaning the joy of dying with his lover, Isolde. She, in turn, testifies of the “utmost rapture” (höchste Lust) of dying beside Tristan, and both join in lauding “sweet death, yearned for, longed for death-in-love!” Wagner felt he had captured the essence of the legend.

Poppycock, says Joan Grimbert, a CUA professor of French language and literature. Grimbert is a scholar of the medieval legend of Tristan and Isolde, frequently called the greatest romance of all time, whose oldest extant version was penned in Norman French in 12th-century England. From there, versions of the story were soon written in German, Old Norse, Icelandic, Italian, Spanish, Czech and Belorussian. It was something of a medieval best-seller. Dubbed a foundational myth of the Western world, this story concerns a Cornish nobleman and Irish princess’ accidental drinking of a love potion and their resulting adulterous affair and deception of the man who is both Isolde’s husband and Tristan’s uncle and liege lord. The tale is not only a progenitor of subsequent literature celebrating romantic love, it is also alive in our own day, inspiring the 2006 feature film “Tristan and Iseult,” John Updike’s 1994 novel Brazil, Joyce Carol Oates’ 1995 novel You Can’t Catch Me, and recent books of Jungian psychology.

Most of the versions of the tale from the late 1800s to today, however, follow Wagner’s 1865 opera in portraying Tristan and Isolde as yearning to escape the constraints of society and to die together as the culmination and climax of their love. The problem with that — as Professor Grimbert has said in public lectures and on radio shows — is that in the medieval versions of the legend, the two lovers don’t desire death, don’t desire to escape society, and do everything they can to maintain and fulfill their roles in society while also secretly continuing their affair.

It seems that the Romantic spirit, whether in the 19th century or today, can’t resist the intoxicating theme of sex and death pursued in order to escape the confines of this world. Even many of the scholars who study the medieval world have been drawn to the false conception that the legend is about the inextricable link between love and death, according to Grimbert.
A chilly fall breeze whistled through Davidsonville, Md., on Oct. 23, but that didn't stop more than 120 CUA alumni and friends from gathering at Renditions Golf Course to play a round and enjoy each other's company for the CUA Athletics Golf Classic. Afterward, the afternoon took on a special meaning for many in attendance as the inaugural CUA Athletics Smathers Award was bestowed on alumnus Col. Sean Mulholland.

The award is named for another soldier and alumnus: decorated Army reservist and lawyer Capt. John Smathers, who died of heart failure on Feb. 4, 2006. The award will hereafter be given annually at the CUA Golf Classic to a current or former CUA student athlete who has distinguished himself or herself in service to community, university, profession or country.

Capt. John Smathers (B.A. 1980, J.D. 1984) epitomized the ideal of service to country, according to his former CUA classmates. During his military career, he earned four Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, an Army Medal of Commendation, and six Army Reserve Components Achievement Medals. After his unit came under heavy fire during his final mission in Iraq in 2004, Smathers suffered multiple injuries requiring emergency surgery. Capt. Smathers' warm heart, quick wit and commitment to his country haven't been forgotten by those who knew him. "When he was your friend, you had no greater friend," his law partner and former CUA classmate Michael McGowan has told the media. "He'd do anything for you."

Col. Mulholland, a former CUA football player who graduated with a B.A. in 1982, was nominated by a number of his fellow alums to receive the Smathers Award. Like Capt. Smathers, he has established himself as a man of service to his country, in Mulholland's case, in the Army Special Forces. In 2008 and 2009, the colonel served as commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan. He is currently the executive officer to the commander of the United States Special Operations Command. Col. Mulholland has earned a number of awards and decorations, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

For the awardee, though, the event was about celebrating the life of the good friend for whom the award is named. "This is the annual 'Remember John' day," Col. Mulholland said with a smile. "It is so special that the Smathers family is here today. We will always have a day to remember who John Smathers was."

"We were delighted with the turnout for this golf tournament and award ceremony," says CUA Athletic Director Mike Allen. "We are especially grateful to our head baseball coach, Ross Natoli, for allowing us to expand on the great work he has done with the golf tournament in the past, as well as to the many friends and family of Capt. Smathers and Col. Mulholland who helped make the event such a success. We look forward to another great event next year."

The 2010 golf tournament will be held on Oct. 1, and CUA's athletic department is currently soliciting nominations of candidates for the next Smathers Award. Nominations can be sent to Jen Cantwell at cantwell@cua.edu.

— K.J.

Alumni, family and honoree: Brian Wickes, Carmella Smathers (the mother of Capt. Smathers), Col. Mulholland and Michael McGowan, along with Athletic Director Mike Allen.
Soccer Teams in NCAA Tourney

This was the year for soccer at Catholic University. The women’s and men’s teams had a combined record of 33-7-2, and both teams earned invitations to the NCAA Tournament in November — the very first time the men’s squad has reached the national tournament, and the second time for the women’s team.

In the national tournament, both CUA teams fell to Lynchburg College.

Under head coach Travis Beauchamp, the men’s team has completely turned around its fortunes from a few years ago. In 2006, the year before Beauchamp took the helm, the team had a 3-11-3 record. In the subsequent years, the team went 6-10, then 14-7, then 16-4-1 this year.

Under head coach J.P. Sousa, the women’s team has enjoyed six consecutive winning seasons, going 17-3-1 this year.

CUA to Play Notre Dame in Hoops

The Catholic University men’s basketball team will play the University of Notre Dame in a preseason game on Nov. 6, 2010, as part of CUA’s celebration of its 100 years of basketball. See the story on Page 32 for more details and to find out how to join a special alumni trip to the game.

Kids Get Their First Look at CUA Through Camps

Catholic University student Chris McCloud began receiving instruction at CUA about 12 years ago.

He is not taking the long route to earning a degree; rather, McCloud, a freshman from Fairfax Station, Va., has been a long-time participant in Coach Ross Natoli’s baseball camp.

McCloud says attending Natoli’s camp “made all the difference in deciding what college to go to.” After working with Natoli from the time he was 6 until he was 12, McCloud knew he didn’t want to be on any other coach’s team. He’s now a catcher for the CUA Cardinals.

Natoli has been running his baseball camps at CUA for 24 years. His biggest motivation to sponsor the camps is “the opportunity to have an influence not only on the kids’ athletic skill and development, but on their lives,” he says. “I get a lot of satisfaction seeing someone improve and come back year after year.”

As McCloud exemplifies, CUA’s sports camps can also be a good recruiting tool for the university and its sports teams.

Andy Tran, a freshman architecture and planning major from Silver Spring, Md., attended Coach Brooks Singer’s Madlax Capitol Lacrosse Camp at CUA the summer before his senior year in high school because he was interested in enrolling at CUA and joining its lacrosse team. “I wanted to interact with a lot of the current players,” he says. CUA lacrosse players serve at the camp as counselors. “This gave me an idea of what it would feel like to be on the team,” says Tran, who now plays lacrosse for CUA.

Basketball Coach Steve Howes says his biggest pleasure in running basketball camps comes from “hearing positive comments from parents saying how much fun their son or daughter had and how much they learned.” Over the past 20 years, he estimates the camp has hosted nearly 8,000 boys and girls.

He also enjoys being able to help underprivileged children in the community. Often a school or charity will let him know of a child who cannot afford to attend camp. “Being in a position to give that kid a free week of camp and knowing that it made a difference in his or her life for that summer is special,” he says.

Most sports camps are held during the summer months, but the women’s softball camp is held in January, and baseball camps are offered in both the summer and winter. Each camp varies in the age range of the players it serves, with baseball inviting the widest range (7–18 years of age).

For more information on CUA’s baseball, basketball, softball, lacrosse and field hockey camps, visit www.cuacardinals.com, select the desired sport from the left column, and look for camp information on the right side of that team’s Web site. — M.F.M.
In fall 2008, the U.S. financial system faced its gravest crisis since the Great Depression as Wall Street firms that had engaged in high-risk transactions found themselves on the brink of insolvency. Contributing heavily to this volatile situation was the decline of the U.S. housing market, coupled with the inability of millions of Americans who had secured home loans, despite their poor credit history, to make good on their subprime mortgage payments. Financial services firms were forced to absorb massive losses caused by mortgage defaults. The result was a crisis of confidence that made banks reluctant to loan money. So pervasive did worries become about possible paralysis of the country’s financial system that ordinary Americans began to question their ability to access their personal bank deposits.

The poster child for reckless financial behavior was American International Group Inc., the world’s largest insurer and its 18th largest corporation. AIG had gambled heavily on risky financial instruments called credit default swaps that were tied to the subprime mortgage market. When the latter collapsed, it created a liquidity crisis for AIG that, barring outside intervention, would doom the firm. Deciding that AIG was too big to fail — that because of its size, AIG’s bankruptcy would threaten the core of the U.S. financial system — the federal government moved to bail out the insurance giant.

Beginning in mid-September 2008, the U.S. government embarked on the first of four bailout programs for AIG that eventually came to total, by some calculations, $182 billion. To guide AIG out of its death spiral, the Bush administration tapped CUA alumnus Edward Liddy (B.A. 1968) as the firm’s new president and CEO. Liddy, who had recently retired from a distinguished business career spanning four decades, including eight years at the helm of the Allstate insurance company, was invited to take the job by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, a colleague with whom he had served on the board of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Liddy accepted the position as a public service, with an annual salary of $1.

**Apocalypse Averted**

How Edward Liddy Helped Pull the U.S. Back From the Brink
Editor’s Note: Regarding some of the companies referenced in the interview that follows, Bear Stearns, JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, Lehman Brothers and Citigroup were all leading U.S. financial services firms. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are shareholder-owned companies created by Congress to provide liquidity, stability and affordability to the U.S. housing and mortgage markets.

CUA Magazine: You were lured out of retirement to take the job as chairman and CEO of American International Group in September 2008 by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Was it a hard sell to convince you to take over what even then must have seemed like a thankless task?

Liddy: I went into it with my eyes open, although it was more complicated than I thought. Remember what was going on in that environment: Bear Stearns had essentially failed and been purchased by JP Morgan Chase. Then in early September both Fannie and Freddie were nationalized by the federal government. The weekend before I went to AIG, Merrill Lynch was forced into the waiting arms of Bank of America. That Monday before I went to AIG, Lehman Brothers failed. It triggered a classic run on the bank. People were withdrawing billions of dollars out of their money market funds, or attempting to, and there was no liquidity. So with my knowledge and understanding of how the worldwide financial system works, my conclusion was that if AIG were to fail at that time, it would have been just cataclysmic to the financial system. When you now see Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and others talking about that, they’re very honest in their assessment that we came really close to a financial apocalypse. So with all of that in the back of my mind, it was not a very hard sell. I believe you have two choices in life: You can either sit on the sidelines as an interested observer and critic or, if you have the capacity to help, you can get in the game and try to steer the course of the outcome. I believe in the latter.

I was enjoying retirement. Leaving my family in Chicago and going to New York was not at the top of my list. In fact, I remember well my wife saying, “Where was this on the retirement plan?” But I think the situation was so unique and it had the potential to turn out really poorly for the financial system, not just of the United States but of the world. So, it was a six- to eight-hour series of conversations and thoughts, and at the end of that day, I was on a plane going to New York.

CUA Magazine: Do you think that if AIG hadn’t been bailed out by the government, the financial system could have collapsed? And what would that have meant?

Liddy: Lehman Brothers was the largest bankruptcy in history. When it went bankrupt it had about $690 billion in assets. When AIG got in trouble, it had $1.1 trillion in assets. It’s one of the leading life insurers around the world, one of the leading annuity and save-for-retirement players around the world. If it had gone bankrupt, the fear that it would have engendered in the United States could have been very extreme. I went into this with a fairly open book about exactly what to do with AIG and how to save it. The more I got into it, the more convinced I became that the policymakers who made the decision to throw AIG a rescue line made the right decision, because the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and then AIG on top of it would have been a disaster. If AIG hadn’t been saved, I don’t think we would be anywhere near where we are today in terms of being on the road to recovery.

CUA Magazine: When you took over AIG, you were arguably one of the most famous business leaders in America in the midst of this country’s greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. What was it like to be in that situation?
Liddy: It was fascinating to have a seat at that table and to recognize that perhaps you’re playing a small role in the shaping of history. My approach to life is to take really large, seemingly unmanageable problems and break them into a series of distinct little problems that you can solve. So my goals when I went to AIG were: Don’t let the company fail, stabilize the situation, protect the policyholders so no policyholder loses a penny. Make sure that the very strong franchises that comprise AIG remain strong so they become assets that can be disposed of or taken public. And then find a path to pay back the taxpayer. Much of that was accomplished in 11 months. And the way we did it was just one issue at a time. Let’s decide what our strategic goals are. Let’s take those goals and break them down into a series of smaller steps and let’s achieve a successful outcome on each of those small steps. It worked reasonably well.

CUA Magazine: When you took over, did you have in mind roughly how long you anticipated staying and how long you thought it would take to achieve these strategic objectives?

Liddy: When I went in, I did not have a specific timetable. It wasn’t: OK, I’ll do it for six months. You have to be flexible enough to recognize that there are intervention or inflection points in anything you do. To exit before you have one of those inflection points is not the right thing. But to stay too long commits you to anything you do. To exit before you have one of those inflection points is not the right thing. But to stay too long commits you to anything you do. To exit before you have one of those inflection points is not the right thing. But to stay too long commits you to anything you do.

CUA Magazine: Although you agreed to take this job for a salary of $1 a year, you probably were on the receiving end of more criticism for taking on this task than some business leaders endure in a lifetime. And members of Congress, when you went to testify before a House subcommittee in March, were especially harsh on you. Did you ever feel the need to come back and tell them that perhaps they don’t understand the situation?

Liddy: I think it did. I would have hoped that more people in Washington would have recognized that people like me — people in various companies who came on board to help solve this financial crisis — were there as part of the government team. The intersection of politics and big business is a difficult place because the currency of the institutions is radically different. The currency in business is market share, shareholder returns, customer care and employees. In Congress maybe it’s more about votes, getting elected and macro policy. So trying to get some sort of common ground where Congress can understand what big business is trying to do and big business can understand what government is trying to do — sometimes it’s very hard. I was disheartened by much of what I saw in Washington, where I thought we’d have a chance for an honest dialogue and an exchange of ideas. It really was not that. There are some great people who serve this country extremely well in both the House and the Senate, however.

CUA Magazine: Do you think that if there hadn’t been this furor that arose over the paying of bonuses that had been set even before you took over, the government bailout of AIG and everything that followed that would have been less controversial and there would have been smoother sailing for you?

Liddy: If it wasn’t AIG and it wasn’t the paying of bonuses, it would have been something else, either Merrill Lynch or Bank of America or Citi. To a certain extent the country needed a cathartic event. There’s rage and fury and it builds and builds, and then it needs to erupt. The AIG bonus payments were the eruption. After that, things began to calm down. The country had to get that out of its system. And once it got it out of its system, then institutions were able to go back to the business of fixing the issues at hand and moving forward. So now you see financial institutions like JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley doing very well. AIG is stable — fragile but stable. It’s got excess liquidity instead of being in the hole from a liquidity standpoint. Its policyholders and business franchises have been protected. There’s a plan in place to repay the taxpayers.

CUA Magazine: During your testimony on Capitol Hill, you appeared very calm. You were shown on TV going over to talk to some of the people who were there to protest. And you were featured on “60 Minutes,” which is well known for going for the jugular. You seemed to handle that very well. Is that part of your makeup — that you’re able to take the tough language and tough messages from other people without getting rattled, and also, able to deliver a tough message?
Liddy: When you’re 62 years old and you’ve been in business 38 years, you have a certain experience set that helps you deal with pretty much any situation that comes your way. I believe that you can have your point of view and I can have mine. They can be entirely different. It’s OK if we disagree as long as we each understand and respect each other’s point of view. So I try to go into everything based on that. If you disagree with me, I’ll sit down and I’ll explain my point of view. I may not be able to convince you but at least you will understand it and you’ll see that there’s logic to my thinking. A couple of people said, “Well, as soon as you went into the chamber, you walked right up to people who were there to protest against you.” I don’t know any other way to do it except to sit down and explain my point of view. I think people who are successful over a long period of time understand the group dynamics of a situation like that and can turn it to their advantage.

CUA Magazine: There were these public statements that members of Congress were making about AIG, criticizing it. But given your philosophy about talking through differences with people and explaining your point of view and understanding theirs, did you as the head of AIG meet offline a lot with senators and congressmen?

Liddy: Yes, either I would or members of my staff would, particularly with the leaders of the various congressional committees. We would work very hard to make sure that they understood exactly what our strategy was. You’ve put your finger on a very important issue. There’s the political and public side on display in Washington, and then there’s the more private side. We had a lot of the public side, but we had a lot of the private interaction as well.

When I’d go back and forth between New York and my home in Chicago, I’d always fly commercially and I would walk right down the middle of the terminal at O’Hare or Reagan International or La Guardia. And I probably had upwards of 300 times when people would recognize me and want to chat about something. I would say 298 of those people were incredibly appreciative and positive. The reason I tell you that is, it’s interesting when you are just talking to the common man what they perceive. When people looked at the hearings in Congress — I had several of them — most people understood the fury that was directed at me wasn’t necessarily directed at me, it was directed at the situation. So making certain that you don’t take everything personally and you recognize that, as some people would say, “it’s just business,” is really an important part of maintaining your cool in those situations.

CUA Magazine: In your private dealings, did you have the impression that members of Congress really did understand the depths of the problem and the solutions, and that the outward politicking was quite a different matter?

Liddy: I’m not sure that anybody anywhere understood the depth or the nature of the problem. There’s no book that you can go to that says, “When liquidity freezes, there’s no credit and the worldwide financial system is on the verge of collapse, go to chapter 8 and follow these directions.” It would be too callous to say people were making it up as they went, but the need for quick, thoughtful action in some cases was absolutely vital. The financial system works on confidence and trust. If either of those two things is injured, it can come crashing down with frightening speed. I would say that...
Washington represented a complete spectrum. Some people got it in great detail and were very constructive on how to think about the issues and solutions; others struggled with its complexity.

**CUA Magazine:** Do you think the media did a good job in educating the American public about what was occurring or were they perhaps contributing to the problem by either oversimplifying or misleading people in some fashion?

**Liddy:** There were a lot of culprits in this financial crisis, too long to list. But the media was clearly one of them. The news cycle is now 24 by 7. When you have a cycle that’s 24 by 7, driven by ratings, and news outlets competing for the latest story, that is a recipe for disseminating information that may not reflect all the facts. To the extent the media gets it wrong or they don’t focus on the right thing, that then feeds unease and distrust in Washington. Because when what gets written in a national newspaper then gets syndicated and winds up in every paper in the country. And someone in Congress will see it or their constituents will call, and that can unleash a firestorm about something that may not even bear any semblance to the facts.

I’d really like to see some thoughtful, introspective analyses about what caused the financial crisis and who contributed to it. I don’t know what institution could be so objective as to do that, but I think it could be helpful for the national political consciousness to understand what did happen. We caused this crisis and we exported it to the rest of the world, so to the extent the rest of the world is mad at us, they may be justified.

**CUA Magazine:** What are the main lessons that you took away from this experience? Do you think something like this can happen again?

**Liddy:** I think things like this could happen again. It won’t be exactly the same thing. But for any system that’s based on trust and confidence, if things occur — wars, pestilence, catastrophes, whatever — that shake confidence in the system, they can damage it quite significantly and very, very quickly. I think there’s enough attention paid to what brought us to the brink this time, so that the potential for this kind of crisis to happen again is probably limited. But that’s not to suggest that you can’t have crises caused by other things.

My general takeaways are as follows: You cannot make any progress in solving problems if you don’t have good people working on them. You need the best and the brightest in a time of crisis. And you need a team approach. You need people who trust each other, who have shared values, who will work together for the greater good, not for their own personal aggrandizement. I think you absolutely need specific plans and you need to implement those plans with urgency and speed. You can and should study things, but at some point when you have enough information to know what you don’t know, you have to make a decision and move. And this crisis, I think, proved that in spades. The actions taken by the United States government, and indeed governments around the world, with respect to insuring certain assets, backing up certain transactions, providing commercial paper funding, things that had never been done before — I think those moves were really wise. And the lesson is, decide what you think is the right solution and implement it. If you have to look back, that’s fine — but move when you’re in these crisis situations.

**CUA Magazine:** What would you say to those people who argue that the government should have intervened not at all or minimally?

**Liddy:** I think taking action was far better than not taking action. It’s clear that when the government gets involved on such a wholesale basis, particularly in one industry such as financial services, that unleashes its own unintended consequences, and there is a price to be paid for that. But if the government had not been aggressive in getting involved the way it did, the price that this country would have paid would have been far greater. Now, I think we have to have sufficient discipline to say, “OK, this was the crisis, we solved it…no more,” and we should look at this as an isolated event and don’t use it as a conveyer belt to get government involved in more industries and more businesses in the future.

The United States system of capitalism is the greatest engine of growth the world has ever seen. And it has helped create what I believe, is the greatest country the world has ever seen. If we tinker with that, each little change that we make may appear to be of limited consequence, but when we accumulate all those changes, if we’re not careful, we will damage the goose that laid the golden egg. The American spirit of democratic capitalism, where anybody can accomplish anything, is really unparalleled, certainly in recent history. I just hope that we have the good sense to modify it as appropriate so that we can avoid these kinds of crises in the future, but don’t go too far and wound it so badly that it is not the incredible engine of growth that we have had since World War I and, in particular, since World War II.

**CUA Magazine:** You said in your farewell letter to AIG employees that “America has lost confidence in corporations. Restoring that confidence is the first step toward regaining our footing in the global economy.” Do you see that loss of confidence as something that can be fixed in the short term?

**Liddy:** Right now there is a spirit of anti-big in the United States — anti-big government, anti-big business, anti-big media, anti-big world. People are afraid of those things that are so big that they can have a disproportionate impact on their lives. I think the “anti-big” phase will pass or will moderate. I’m not sure how long it will take and its length may really be a function of what happens with things that are on the horizon. When does the unemployment rate get down from double digits? When do people’s homes begin to increase in value? When do people stop worrying about “Am I ever going to be able to retire?” There are so many exogenous factors that have an impact on when people do feel less fearful of “big.”

I’m not a believer in large systemic changes. The United States is based on a system that is designed for a certain amount of inertia —
and that's both our greatness and our weakness. You can't change too quickly; that may be a good thing. When you are in the heat of battle, you may think, “This is a great solution.” But at the end of the battle, or when you are in a different situation where you can think more clearly, you may have a completely different solution. I think we need some cool heads to come up with appropriate solutions and engage the country in a spirit of a positive debate.

**CUA Magazine:** Do you think we're on the right path now as far as putting the economic house in order in the United States?

**Liddy:** I think so, although I worry about how well thought out the stimulus package was — not the need for a stimulus package, but are we really spending the money on things that will in fact stimulate the economy to the greatest extent possible?

I worry that we'll take on things like health care or environmental issues, which are important, but will have a tab due at some point in time. And we'll have a hard time paying the bill because the economy will be slower to rebound than people think. There's an awful lot on our national agenda right now. I worry a little that right now as a country we're just trying to do so much and we don't have the financial resources to do it. I liken it to a family: You can't live beyond your means. You have to decide: What is it going to be? Are we going to upgrade the house this year or are we going to pay for two college tuitions? You have to make choices. You can't do everything.

**CUA Magazine:** Do you have any closing thoughts to share on your experience at AIG?

**Liddy:** People frequently ask me: Would I do it again? My answer is, given the same set of circumstances, I would. If you think you can help when the situation is really bleak, you just can't sit on the sideline and say, “Ain't it awful?”

Maybe that's one of the good things about attending an institution like Catholic University or getting a Catholic education — you realize that there's more to life than just you. And there is, I think, a belief that everyone's got to do something to give back. You can't just take, take, take. As my wife said, “Maybe this is your time to give back in an arena that you're comfortable with.” So, I would, if asked to do it again.
Optimism for an Improving Economy

By Kate Kennedy


Everywhere you turned last year, there was bad economic news. There were home foreclosures, bank failures, layoffs and furloughs. The federal deficit tripled compared to the previous year to a record $1.42 trillion; unemployment reached 10 percent; and tight credit squeezed borrowers.

But, like crocuses blooming on an early spring day, there are small signs of optimism after billions of dollars were spent on a federal stimulus and after stocks rallied about 20 percent from their recession low point.

“While this is an extremely difficult period for our country and for our economy, the prospects are improving and
there is a recovery under way,” says CUA alumnus Timothy Scheve, president and CEO of Janney Montgomery Scott, an investment banking and financial-services firm. The recovery “will continue to develop more fully during the coming year.”

Scheve, a Catholic University trustee and chair of the Investments Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees’ Finance Committee, talked with CUA Magazine in January about the prospects for the U.S. economy.

“What we’ve learned from history is that the economy, the markets and the American people are exceedingly resilient,” he says. “Recoveries do happen even after horrific events like we’ve been through in the last 18 months. As such, we’ve got to be prudent in our anticipation of future economic challenges and yet be prepared to take advantage of the eventual recoveries. “It’s one of those periods of pessimism that at some point will be followed by optimism,” he added. “It’s just managing the two and managing your reaction to the two.”

As the head of a firm that manages more than $50 billion in assets, Scheve oversees 1,800 employees in Philadelphia and 100 branch offices along the East Coast and in Chicago and San Francisco. With annual revenue of a half-billion dollars, Janney Montgomery Scott is one of the largest regional broker-dealers in the United States.

The economy was 2009’s top news story — a story that many would like to forget. From college graduates who were having difficulty finding jobs to retirees dealing with a dramatic drop in their 401(k) savings, most people felt some impact from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

The economic crisis grew out of a housing bubble exacerbated by reckless risk taking, low interest rates and a lack of financial discipline. “Lax risk management, greed and easy credit without fiscal responsibility created a very unstable situation that, when topped, took down the asset values of almost everything, including the holdings of individuals who had no direct involvement in what was going on,” Scheve says. The result extracted “a huge price on the economy and the households in the U.S. and even around the globe.”

Scheve, who graduated from CUA with an economics degree in 1980, anticipates a slow economic recovery because of continued high unemployment and the decline in consumer confidence.

With unemployment reaching a 26-year high, “it’s tough out there,” he says. “It’s been a very trying year and a half, with lots of pressure. People have lost their jobs. Others have taken on more work because there are fewer people employed at every organization.”

Increasing employment levels is vital to economic growth, he says. “And while it may take a long time before unemployment reaches the 6 ½ percent rate we saw a year to 18 months ago, even [the current situation of] employers stabilizing payrolls and beginning to bring on part-time help is somewhat evidence of an improving trend.”

He noted that employment is a lagging economic indicator because unemployment generally continues to rise for a period of time even after a recession ends. But, he adds, “I believe that if we maintain the current pace of recovery, it would not be out of the question to see actual job creation beginning in the next several quarters.”

Employment is key to recovery because it is closely tied to consumer confidence and consumer spending, which drive the economy. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, he notes. When consumers are worried about their jobs, they spend less.

“Having people find jobs and improve their confidence in the future is necessary to move the country forward in a positive direction,” Scheve says. “Without consumer confidence, purchases are delayed and businesses do not expand and hire. We need confidence in order to improve and drive consumption and increase business activity and therefore increase hiring.”

Scheve speaks from his experience of working in the financial-services industry for decades. Before becoming head of Janney Montgomery Scott, he was CEO at Baltimore-based brokerage firm Legg Mason Wood Walker, where he worked for 23 years.

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“Recessions do happen,” he points out. “What people should take away from this is [the necessity of paying attention to] risk management and debt levels and managing those items carefully.”

Another important lesson, he adds, is “never forgetting that there always is a business cycle, that optimism follows pessimism, and to be prepared for it.”

Last year’s positive performance of the stock market might be one cause for continued optimism. The market often leads the economy by six to nine months, Scheve notes.

“What the recent lift in the market has been telling us is that the economy is on the mend,” he says. “In addition, the credit markets have improved, which has created some liquidity and reduced the cost of capital for companies to finance their activities. All this has led investors to bid up share prices due to expectations of a better climate for corporate profits, which makes stocks more valuable to own.”

His key message to investors: Don’t lose sight of your goals and needs. “We still have to educate our children, and we want to retire to a comfortable lifestyle. With it all, investors need to plan. That means you have to assess your objectives and review the risk levels and put together a responsible plan to achieve your goals.”

One result of the economic crisis, he predicts, “will be some measure of financial regulation and transparency that [if it had been in place earlier] may have mitigated the severity of this decline.”

In the meantime, people might be frustrated with the pace of recovery. Recovery “is always going to be slower than we hoped because one of the defining characteristics of this country is that we’re optimistic,” he says.

“While we know the U.S. economy is very resilient and it will prosper in the long run, the near-term picture is still uncertain,” he says. “Policymakers are fully engaged in seeing that the recovery is sustained, giving us reason to believe that, on balance, the U.S. economy will grow in the coming year, even if at times it seems that growth is a tad uneven, and we sometimes take one step back and two steps forward.”

S P R I N G  2 0 1 0  1 9
Visiting a D.C. You’ve Never Seen Before

By Catherine Lee
As a Catholic University student in the early 1970s, Sherri Lang Weil (shown at left) would ride the No. 80 bus with a friend down North Capitol Street to Union Station. From there, they'd walk to a Smithsonian museum, check out new exhibits and then find a spot, often in a park near the White House, for a picnic lunch.

Weil says she was particularly fond of the National Portrait Gallery, where the paintings of legendary figures “made history real” for her. While the exhibits held a certain magic, the Portrait Gallery’s National Historic Landmark building, located at 8th and F streets in Northwest, was badly in need of repair, she says. And the neighborhood around it — well, there really wasn’t much of one.

The Portrait Gallery was closed in 2000 for a $300 million renovation. By the time it reopened in 2006, Weil was working at the museum, whose surrounding neighborhood she no longer recognized. Hired as the Portrait Gallery’s director of development and external affairs, she found that the area, now known as Penn Quarter, was filled with new hotels, theaters, restaurants, art galleries and trendy shops.

Weil says she feels very lucky to be working in such a vibrant D.C. neighborhood, whose revitalization started after the MCI Center (now the Verizon Center) opened as the arena of basketball’s Washington Wizards and hockey’s Washington Capitals in 1997.

Catholic University graduates who haven’t been back to the city in a while will find that it has changed quite a bit in the past 10 or 15 years, says Rebecca Pawlowski, communications director for Destination DC, a nonprofit organization that markets Washington as a global convention and tourism destination. “There’s been a lot of development in D.C. in recent years, which has caused a big shift in tourist attractions,” Pawlowski says. “The National Mall is still a great draw for tourists, but now visitors are popping off the Mall to check out neighborhoods where there’s a lot more to do and see these days.”

For example, the National Portrait Gallery’s Penn Quarter neighborhood has seen the opening of several new museums that, unlike the Smithsonian museums, charge admission:

- The International Spy Museum features the largest collection of spy-related artifacts ever placed on public display, plus interactive experiences in which visitors assume the roles of covert agents and are faced with puzzles, tasks and motion simulators as they work through a mission to intercept a secret arms deal involving a nuclear device.

- The Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences features exhibits that bring current science and scientific issues to life.

- The National Museum of Crime & Punishment is a “must-see for CSI fans” according to “Good Morning America,” and a site where visitors can check out a modern-day capital-punishment room, test their Wild West shooting skills, crack a safe, try to hack a computer and experience the high-speed car-chase simulator used in the training of policemen.

“I love the elegant simplicity of the National Portrait Gallery — Walt Whitman called it ‘the noblest building in Washington’ — and its rich history,” says history Professor Leslie Tentler. “I also like the new glass-roofed courtyard with café.”
Calling itself the world’s most interactive museum, the Newseum and its 15 theaters and 14 galleries is the place where five centuries of news history meet up-to-the-second technology. Not just for news junkies, the museum features a 4-D immersive cinema, a powerful display of Pulitzer Prize-winning photos, the actual Montana cabin of the Unabomber and a display of how journalists and G-men tracked him down, a theater showing the history of sports reporting, and a tribute to 9/11. The latter includes the twisted wreckage of the broadcast antenna that crowned the World Trade Center and newspaper headlines from around the world announcing news of the attack.

Alumni who are planning to visit the campus this summer, perhaps with their soon-to-be-college-age children, will find that the Columbia Heights neighborhood and the U Street corridor, both in Northwest, have also changed dramatically. U Street, a nexus for jazz and rock clubs, is “the newest and hottest place in town for getting out on weekends after dark,” according to The New York Times. In Columbia Heights, the refurbished Tivoli Theatre, a former movie palace built in 1924, reigns like a king over 14th Street. It is now the home of the GALA (Grupo de Artistas Latinoamericanos) Hispanic Theatre, a national center for Latino performing arts.

One of the city’s newest additions, the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, opened in December 2008. The center, which serves as the main entrance to the U.S. Capitol, is located underground on the east side of the famed white building with its stately dome. Designed to make the Capitol more accessible and secure for its very Rev. David M. O’Connell, C.M., university president, says he can often be found in the newly renovated U.S. Botanic Garden, where its natural beauty soothes his soul.

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian
millions of annual visitors, it reflects Washington’s status as a political powerhouse. In March 2009, Catholic University held a reception at the center for 300 alumni, and just before it started, CUA staffers spotted President Barack Obama at the end of a hallway on his way to another event.

In recent years the Smithsonian has expanded its free offerings with the opening of new museums and the renovation of existing spaces on the Mall. The Sculpture Garden at the National Gallery of Art was unveiled in 1998; the National Museum of the American Indian opened in 2004; and the National Museum of American History reopened in November 2008 after a major renovation. The National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Fairfax County, Va., opened near Dulles Airport in 2003. Its huge collection includes rare World War II fighters, the Space Shuttle Enterprise, an Air France Concorde supersonic airliner and the Enola Gay B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

Alumni with an interest in those who have defended the United States in time of war will enjoy visiting several monuments that have opened in the past 13 years. The Air Force Memorial adjacent to Virginia’s Arlington Cemetery, with its three stainless steel spires that soar 270 feet skyward, has become a landmark on the Washington skyline. The National World War II Memorial, located at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, honors the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home.

When in D.C. you must see the Korean War Veterans Memorial, says Christine Mica, dean of university admissions. This memorial, dedicated in 1995, consists of 19 statues — 14 Army, three Marines, one Navy and one Air Force — that are 7 feet tall in heroic scale.
“What most impressed me about the FDR Memorial is that it truly tells a story, and I felt I understood FDR, his presidency and his times on an emotional level, not just as historic fact,” says Professor Todd Lidh, coordinator of CUA’s First-Year Experience program for freshmen.

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, located along the cherry tree walk on the edge of the Tidal Basin, traces the 12 years of FDR’s presidency by means of a series of waterfalls, outdoor rooms and sculptures capturing the harrowing days of the Great Depression and World War II and depicting the president in his wheelchair.

For Catholic University graduates who are theatergoers, the city offers a level of entertainment that is “on par with New York and Chicago,” says Ann Norton, B.A. 1975, executive director of the Washington Stage Guild.

The Washington area ranks as the national leader in diversity of theater productions, according to Linda Levy Grossman, president and CEO of the Helen Hayes Awards, the D.C. area’s version of the Tony Awards. The District features “an extraordinary range” of regional, classical, musical, contemporary and edgy theater, she notes.

Grossman says that in 2009, 76 theater companies were producing shows in the D.C. metropolitan area. Of those, more than half were started in the past 15 years. The city’s Shakespeare Theatre Company, which The Wall Street Journal has called “the nation’s foremost Shakespeare company,” completed its new 775-seat Sidney Harman Hall across from the Verizon Center in 2007 and in the past year has brought Academy Award winners Sir Ian McKellen (Gandalf in the “Lord of the Rings” movies) and Helen
Kids enjoy the interactive displays at the International Spy Museum, and adults will enjoy learning the background on spy episodes they read about in the paper, says chemistry Professor Diane Bunce. The proximity of Chinatown provides places for lunch or dinner.

Mirren (Queen Elizabeth II in the 2006 movie “The Queen”) to its stage as performers. Newer D.C. companies include Solas Nua, part of the only contemporary Irish arts organization in the United States, and the progressive Jewish Theater J, both in D.C.’s DuPont Circle neighborhood, and the Washington Improv Theater in Penn Quarter.

Alumni whose interests lean more toward sports than the arts might want to take in a major-league baseball game at Nationals Park in Washington’s newest neighborhood: Capitol Riverfront. Opened in March 2008, the ballpark is located 1.5 miles south of the U.S. Capitol. For alums who are planning to visit D.C. this summer, Nationals Park is a great place to watch the hometown team.

For Marion Gosney, CUA director of alumni relations, the revitalization of D.C. mirrors the changes that have occurred on campus in the last decade. Newer buildings like Opus Hall and the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center have helped to fill out the campus. “Alums who haven’t been back in awhile will find that both Washington and Catholic University have expanded their offerings,” says Gosney, who graduated from CUA in 1975. “They’ve become a city and a campus that are in sync with each other.”
Galileo saw the phases of the moon through a makeshift telescope 400 years ago. What he saw of the moon and planets eventually would lead him to challenge common beliefs about the universe.

Today, students in Associate Professor Duilia de Mello's astronomy class study the phases of the moon in the night sky above Catholic University's campus. What they see leads them to better understand the universe in which they live.

Each night for a month, students in Physics 103 observe the moon in a project that requires them to sketch the phases and make notations about the moon's altitude and the direction from which they view it.

Much to De Mello's dismay, she finds that many young people never look up to see the beauty that she has studied for more than 20 years. “The moon project gives students an awareness of the sky,” she says.

“As with all Dr. De Mello’s assignments,” says freshman John McCarthy, “it is not about the theory, but rather what you take from it. After that project, every student was able to look at the moon with new appreciation.”

Physics 103, an astronomy course for nonscience majors, is an overview of the universe that begins with a history of astronomy and telescopes and covers the solar system, stars and evolution of the universe.

De Mello was nicknamed “Mulher das Estrelas” by the media in her native Brazil after she discovered a supernova in 1997. In a Hannan Hall classroom, this “Woman of the Stars” extends her arms in what seems like an embrace of the universe as she lectures to 40 students. “Brilliant!” she proclaims as an image of our own Milky Way galaxy is displayed. She leads students on an exploration of the galaxy, describing its halo and disk, as well as the location of our sun.

“Our galaxy is a cannibal,” De Mello announces, explaining that the Milky Way is gradually swallowing the nearby Sagittarius Dwarf galaxy.

Then she gives students something else to consider: “Five billion years from now, our galaxy will collide with the Andromeda galaxy.” Later she tells students, “Astronomy is the science of catastrophes.”

Throughout the semester, De Mello holds students’ attention with her passion for astronomy and interactive exercises. She passes around “space rocks,” coin-sized pieces of meteorite found in Argentina, Brazil, Arizona and China. Starburst candy and Milky Way bars are given out for Halloween, and — just days before the Vatican convenes a conference on the question of life on other planets — she dons an alien mask and encourages students to consider the origins and evolution of life in the universe and the possibility of life beyond the Earth.

Students also get hands-on experience being astronomers when De Mello assigns them to participate in the Galaxy Zoo project, an Internet-based galactic census that is using volunteers to classify a million galaxies by their shape.

She devotes one meeting of the course to what she calls “The Day of Why.” Dressed in black and sporting a necklace pendant imprinted with the image of a star, she invites students to ask questions that begin with the word “why.”

“Why is Pluto no longer a planet?” a student asks. Because of its small size, Pluto was reclassified a dwarf planet, De Mello explains.

“Why aren’t we sucked into the black hole at the center of the Milky Way?” another student asks. The black hole’s gravity does not pull in objects that are far away, the professor explains. “A black hole is not a vacuum cleaner. It will only pull objects that are really close to it.”
“Why did you become an astronomer?” asks McCarthy, a politics major from Keansburg, N.J.

“When I was 12 or 13 years old,” De Mello responds, “I became fascinated with space missions. I did not learn enough about space in high school. I decided I would become an astronomer so I could learn more.”

An extragalactic astronomer, De Mello studies objects beyond the Milky Way, including galaxies that are some eight billion light-years from Earth. Specializing in the evolution of galaxies, she is a research associate at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., as part of the ongoing collaboration between NASA and CUA’s Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences.

In 2008, De Mello made news by using NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope to identify “blue blobs,” clusters of mostly young stars 12 million light-years away. NASA has awarded her research grants of more than $300,000 over the past few years.

She is committed to public outreach, as well, especially to teens. For two years, she blogged about discoveries in astronomy for the popular Brazilian science magazine Superinteressante. Her book Living With Stars was written to inspire teens — especially young women — to consider careers in science. It was published in Brazil last year.

“What really motivates me to do astronomy is to learn about things and to discover things,” she says. “But if you don’t pass this to anybody else, it’s a waste.”

De Mello’s ability to teach non-science majors seems effortless. But she says this introductory astronomy class, which she has taught twice, is difficult because of the need to take complicated scientific detail and break it into easy-to-understand terms.

To Katie Hoffman, a sophomore politics major from San Antonio, De Mello’s approach works. “I know that I will gain from this class because it was interesting,” says the student. “I suddenly began to learn things I never even thought were possible for me to learn.”

Late in the semester, De Mello hosts a class debate about space exploration, focused on a question being considered by NASA: Should humans explore Mars? With a show of hands, a majority of students says yes.

Then she poses a second, more challenging question: Should we send astronauts to Mars without a guaranteed return to Earth, as some have suggested? The ethical issue is a deal-breaker for some students as they form teams to debate the economics, practicality and science of exploring Mars.

The debate ends with a show of hands on two more questions. Who would go to Mars if there were a guaranteed return to Earth? More than a dozen students raise their hands. And who would go if it were only a one-way ticket? Eight potential space pioneers raise their hands.

De Mello was more interested in the critical-thinking skills displayed by students than what position they took in the debate. “This is a science class in the sense that you have to think of the consequences and you have to justify things,” she explains.

By the end of the course, she says, students should “know our space in the universe — where our planet is, the environment of our planet, the environment of our galaxy.”

That lesson is not lost on McCarthy. “My generation has lost the ability to look into the sky with wonder and awe,” he says. “Dr. De Mello constantly pushes her students to appreciate the galaxy and universe around us and understand our place in it all.”
Murder Most Amusing?
Malliet Masters Malice.

Is it his children’s greedy panic about Sir Adrian Beauclerk-Fisk’s impending marriage that leads to murder at Waverly Court? Or do other forces drive someone to kill? Twice. As redoubtable Cambridgeshire Detective Chief Inspector Arthur St. Just — “tall, well built, handsome” — observes of the Beauclerk-Fisk clan in *Death of a Cozy Writer*, “Nothing in this crowd would surprise me.”

Surprise as well as delight epitomize G.M. Malliet’s writing in *Death of a Cozy Writer*, *Death and the Lit Chick* and *Death at the Alma Mater*, all published within the past two years. With a distinctively droll voice, Malliet pays homage to the tradition of British mystery doyennes Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers — off-stage murder, red herrings galore and clear-eyed observation of the human species at its worst — while gently sending up the genre with wit and erudition that make reading her books fun and rereading them even better.

Malliet, who was a CUA graduate student in the 1980s, confesses to an early and ongoing interest in mystery. “Nancy Drew. Agatha Christie. Dorothy Sayers,” she muses. “I love the mystery format, the puzzle. Agatha Christie — she’s my model, my hero.”

Christie could have no better heir than Malliet, who delineates character quickly through apt metaphors, deftly chosen verbs and dialogue that expresses more than it says, as in this exchange between Sir Adrian and his American secretary, Jeffrey Spencer, in *Death of a Cozy Writer*:

What is it?” Sir Adrian demanded now. The secretary, for it was he, flashed him a blinding white smile, displaying the results of a lifetime of proper oral hygiene.

“Just popped in to give you the latest pages, and to ask if you’ve any more for me to be getting on with, what?”

Another of Jeffrey Spencer’s many, many annoying mannerisms, to Sir Adrian’s mind, was his adoption of what he hoped was a British accent complete with British slang and figures of speech. Sir Adrian, when in the mood, reacted to this by slinging back as much American speech as he could recall from his telly viewing.

“Nope, Jeff,” he said now. “Reckon I’ll hang on to these here pages a mite longer, pardner. But you can mosey on down t’store yonder and fetch me some of this here special ink fer the inkwell. I’ve done tuckered it all out.”

As Malliet describes the arrival of Sir Adrian’s children, Ruthven, George (and his beautiful girlfriend, Natasha), Sarah and Albert, at Waverly Court, the falseness of the family heritage and butler Paulo’s disdain are evident:
Death and the Lit Chick

The suspects in Cozy Writer hover, skulk, slouch, clump, glide and calculate. In Lit Chick, Malliet’s second book, actions are more literary but no less deadly. Gathered at Dalmorton Castle in Scotland for a conference to honor young blockbuster writer Kimberlee Kalder are jealous fellow writers, zealous would-be writers, competing agents and publishers, and a husband no one knew about, as well as Detective Chief Inspector St. Just, there to address the group of mystery writers on police procedure. He cringes to find his talk described in the promotional brochure as being about “nabbing the baddies. Hold your fire as he fires off tales of his most famous nabs.” The ever-understated St. Just wonders, “Who do they think I am? Eliot Ness?”

Arriving at the gloomy castle, “gray and austere, its dark drum tower and arrow-slit turrets starkly outlined against a blue-moonstone sky,” lovely criminologist/writer Portia De’Ath waves away her uneasy feeling, reasoning, “Really, what were the odds that anyone would actually be murdered at a gathering of murder mystery writers, when you really thought about it?” That evening, Kimberlee ends up at the bottom of a dungeon, quite dead.

Death at the Alma Mater

As St. Just begins his investigation in Lit Chick, Portia De’Ath cautions him to remember that these are people who have made their living by telling lies. By the third book of the series, Death at the Alma Mater, published this year, De’Ath and St. Just have become a couple, occasionally taking up a glass of champagne in her rooms at St. Michael’s College, University of Cambridge.

In the novel, De’Ath has the misfortune to be stuck on campus for a weekend reunion of successful alumni who were students in 1988. They’ve been invited back by Dr. D.X.L. Marburger, the college master. He’s hoping for big donations from the very wealthy members, but instead gets major headaches when sexy Lexy Lau rant, jilted wife of author and fellow alum Sir James Bassett, is found dead beside the college’s boathouse. With Portia nearby, St. Just traces tangled relationships to reason out who killed Lexy.

How Did She Get Here?

Malliet reminds one of De’Ath, tastefully dressed, self-possessed and quietly observant. What’s this thoughtful, quiet woman doing writing about murder?

“I’m interested in the dynamics that would lead one human being to be so desperate or so greedy or whatever — revengeful — to kill another human being,” she says. “That’s why the mystery form is so satisfying to a writer. It is the ultimate crime; there is no worse.”

The unfinished manuscript for Death of a Cozy Writer lay in a drawer until Malliet entered the first three chapters into a grant competition for unpublished works sponsored by Malice Domestic, a mystery writer’s organization located in the Washington, D.C., area. She won the $1,500 grant in 2003.

“It was terribly exciting,” she says, “and just the impetus I needed to finish the book.” Then, without an agent — “Never do that except as a last resort!” she advises — she searched for a publisher. Midnight Ink, one of the few publishers to read unsolicited manuscripts, agreed to take the book on. Good bet: Death of A Cozy Writer went on to win the Agatha Award for Best First Novel, a Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2008 citation and an Independent Publisher Book Award.

Malliet’s characters are well served by her M.A. in organizational psychology from CUA and M.Phil. (also in psychology) from Cambridge, an undergraduate degree in journalism, as well as years spent in England. Her entertaining, fly-on-the-wall reporting captures the dynamics — often dysfunctional — of relationships between all kinds of people, from St. Just’s exchanges with his down-to-earth sidekick Sergeant Fear to the deadliest of sibling rivalries.

Now, as Malliet begins writing a series of novels for Thomas Dunne/Minotaur Books, readers can look forward to meeting a new protagonist, Max Tudor, a former MI5 secret agent who has become an Anglican vicar in a small English village, hoping to leave his violent past behind. The chances of that? “Well,” says Malliet. “In the first book, a member of his parish is murdered . . .” — C.C.
For details on other alumni events, call the CUA Office of Alumni Relations at 202-319-5608 (800-288-ALUM outside the Washington, D.C., area). We're happy to tell you all that we're planning for you.
KTG Alumnae
Keep in Touch

2009 was a busy year for the sisters of Kappa Tau Gamma. In addition to welcoming 19 new sisters into the sorority, the alumni committee worked hard to keep in touch with sisters who have graduated and are bringing KTG’s mission of Christian service to the world. The sorority had a very successful Alumnae Tea in April 2009, and, once again, KTG was well represented at the Homecoming and Reunions Tent Party in October, sharing a table with alumni of the Alpha Delta Gamma fraternity.

To stay in touch with KTG, e-mail Rossanna Panara, KTG alumni chair, at cua-alumniassoc@cua.edu. She looks forward to hearing from fellow sisters!

Alumni Travel Club: Explore America’s National Parks

If 2010 is your year to stay closer to home, this classic Western U.S. experience is for you. If you haven’t yet visited America’s great parks, or if it has been some time since you have, our national parks trip is the best way to enjoy these national treasures.

This fantastic July 12–27 trip includes seven nights in national park lodges within Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion, and two nights in fabulous Las Vegas!

Here are some of the features included in the price of the trip:

- 15 nights in deluxe, superior first-class, and first-class hotels, including the seven nights in official park lodges
- 26 meals (15 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 2 dinners)
- 19 sightseeing tours and cultural connections
- All transportation via private deluxe motor coach with air-conditioning and restroom facilities

Price: $3,799, which includes airfare from Washington's Dulles Airport. (For departures from other airports, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-288-ALUM.)

To reserve your place on this trip, call 1-800-322-6677 and reference group number G486-900. We hope you’ll come along!

Become a Career Ambassador — Join the Cardinal Career Network

Have you ever thought, “If I only knew then what I know now …”? The Cardinal Career Network is a way that CUA alums can share the wisdom and perspective of their career experience with today’s CUA students … or with fellow alums. Whether you are sharing about your career, about a specific industry in your city, or about graduate school, you will make a tangible difference in the education and future of a fellow member of the CUA family.

To get started, go to the Office of Career Services home page (http://careers.cua.edu) and click on the Cardinal Career Network link. Once registered, you’ll be able to serve as a resource for students, as well as contact or be contacted by fellow alumni.

For those students and alumni looking for career information or advice, you can search for alumni career ambassadors by academic major, career field, job type, job title, company/organization name and geographic location. Career-enhancement tips, job-search strategies, career trends and information on companies are just a few of the benefits that await those who use the system.

SAVE THE DATE: October 1–3 is the weekend we celebrate all things Catholic University. It’s also the date that the reunion classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 celebrate themselves! Reunions committees are being formed right now, so sign up to gather your classmates and friends and shape your reunion. E-mail Meghan Comey at comey@cua.edu to add your name to the list of class organizers.
Alumni Profile:
One Woman’s Success Story

After graduating from CUA, singer and activist Carol Lynn Maillard, B.A. 1973, wasted no time putting her education to work as she made her dreams a reality. She helped found the a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock the same year she graduated. In the 37 years since, this extraordinary female vocal group has won a Grammy Award, been nominated for additional Grammys, and become a vital and innovative presence in the music culture of our nation’s capital and beyond.

Maillard’s career has been a marriage of her Catholic faith and her African-American heritage. Both of these elements have shone through her efforts with Sweet Honey in the Rock, whose name is derived from Psalm 81:16, which speaks of God’s promise to feed his people honey out of the rock. With co-founders Bernice Johnson Reagon, Louise Robinson and Mie, Maillard was a driving force in the formation of this group of African-American women who boast a song repertoire steeped in the sacred music of the black church, the clarion calls of the civil rights movement, and songs of the struggle for justice everywhere.

Maillard’s Catholic roots have impacted her professional endeavors, as she has been involved in a number of religious projects both on stage and onscreen. In 2000, she co-wrote and co-produced the score/songs for “The Nativity,” a Sweet Honey in the Rock music video for the American Bible Society.

When Sweet Honey in the Rock released its latest album, “Experience... 101,” The Washington Post hailed Maillard’s ability as a songwriter, noting that she “has a doo-wop-like knack for lacing a tune and a beat so tightly together that the song stays in your head long after the disc stops spinning.” — J.M.
Class Notes...

‘60s

Bernard W. Adamec, B.Arch. 1961 (ARCH), and wife Mary Ellen are retired in Annapolis, Md., focusing their activities on their 12 grandchildren. Their doing efforts are interrupted by an annual winter retreat to Longboat Key, Fla. He retired in 1994 as a supervisory architect for public buildings services in the U.S. General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. During his tenure there, he was the international projects director for design and construction of a series of vocational training schools throughout Saudi Arabia in the late 1970s. He went on to become program manager for 13 years, overseeing the execution of a design and construction agreement with the Soviet Union until that country’s collapse in 1991.

Rev. John Shevlin, M.A. 1961 (A&S), of Lakewood, Calif., had his Christmas Carol in honor of St. Joseph published by Oregon Catholic Press. The song is titled “Joseph’s Song” and is published in the children’s songbook Rise Up and Sing. He has also recently published a peace song, “Planetearth Road Peace Song.” A selection on a recent CD by the Ours Lady of Loretto Elementary School Choir in Los Angeles, the song includes a refrain in which the word for “peace” is sung in eight different languages.

‘70s

Joseph G. Jabbra, Ph.D. 1970 (A&S), is president of Lebanese American University, which has campuses in Beirut and Byblos.


Brother Bernard Seif, S.M.C., M.A. 1974 (A&S), of Brodheadserville, Pa., is a clinical psychologist and doctor of natural medicine with a specialization in Chinese medicine. He maintains a clinical-pastoral practice, leads workshops and retreats, and is the author of the Office of the Dead series of monastic mystery novels. His most recent project has been helping to establish a holistic health center called the Gentle Strength Association in Hong Kong and mainland China as an outreach of his own Monroe County, Pa., Salesian Monastery. He was recently honored with the Building Bridges of Integration award by the Traditional Chinese Medicine World Foundation.

Rev. Denis G. Wilde, O.S.A., M.A. 1974, Ph.D. 1984 (MUSIC), was associate professor of music at Villanova University (and choral director of Villanova’s “Singers,” the official men’s chorus) from 1977 to 1998. Since 1998 he has supplemented his full-time ministry in Priests for Life by performing as a concert pianist at parishes and community centers in North America and Europe. Priests for Life is a movement of clergy and laity of all denominations working to end abortion and euthanasia. Father Wilde lives at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Rectory in Philadelphia. In 2010 he celebrates 50 years with the Augustinians and 40 years of priestly ordination.

George V. Frisk, Ph.D. 1975 (A&S), professor of ocean and mechanical engineering and associate director of Florida Atlantic University’s SeaTech Campus in Dania Beach, has been elected president of the Acoustical Society of America. He served as vice president of the society in 2007–2008 and was chair of the National Research Council panel that produced the 2003 report Ocean Noise and Marine Mammals (National Academies Press), for which he led a team of experts investigating the effects of noise, both manmade and natural, on marine mammal behavior, navigation, communication and hearing.

After 20 years of practicing law, including representing abused and neglected children, Mark Schultheis, LL.M. 1976 (LAW), of Fort Collins, Colo., got a degree in marriage and family therapy and has been treating sexually abused children and their families for five years. Recently he has become involved in the legal system by doing reunification therapy for parents and children who have been separated.

Rev. Peter Wells, B.A. 1976 (A&S), was appointed administrator of St. Clare Catholic Church in Clifton, N.J., in June. He is a member of the standing committee for clergy of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He is also a Seton Associate, an affiliate member of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.

Kevin Hickson, B.A. 1977, M.F.A. 1981 (A&S), and his wife, Regina, are a presenting team
couple for Worldwide Marriage Encounter and have recently made weekend presentations at the Montfort Retreat House in Bayshore, N.Y., and the Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. They live in Port Washington, N.Y.

Mark G. Ackermann, B.A. 1978 (A&S), of Freehold, N.J., has been chosen as president and CEO of Lighthouse International, a 104-year-old nonprofit leader in vision-related health care, research and services for the visually impaired. Ackermann, who has considerable expertise in health care management, started in his new role in September. In 2007 and 2008, he served as the special assistant to Cardinal Edward Egan and executive director of the Office of the Papal Visit for the Archdiocese of New York. In this capacity he was responsible for all aspects of Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to New York City in April 2008. More recently, he has been a management and fundraising consultant to New York-area hospitals and nonprofits.

Patricia “Pat” Kaufman, J.D. 1979 (LAW), of Fort Washington, Md., has been nominated to serve a second term on the executive committee of the United States Golf Association, the national governing body of golf that sponsors the U.S. Open. She is one of only three women serving on the committee.

‘80s


Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D. 1981 (A&S), of Burke, Va., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, has written The Formula for Economic Growth on Main Street America (CRC Press), which examines how and why economic growth during the late 20th century was marked by the dramatic rise of some communities and the equally dramatic decline of others. Gordon also taught a class in CUA’s politics department during the spring 2009 semester.

Jeni (Smith) Stepanek, B.A. 1982 (A&S), of Rockville, Md., released a new book about her son, the late child poet Mattie Stepanek, who believed he was a messenger of hope and peace for all people. The book is titled Messenger: The Legacy of Mattie J.T. Stepanek and Heartsongs (Dutton Adult).

U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) selected Lori Weinistein, M.S.W. 1983 (SOCSV), of Olney, Md., as a 2009 Angel for her outstanding advocacy concerning adoption issues. During her 21 years of service to Montgomery County Child Welfare Services, she has helped more than 160 children get adopted. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, which orchestrates the Angels in Adoption program, honored Weinstein and other Angels at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 30, 2009.

Rev. Joseph Callipare, M.Div. 1985 (THEO), has been appointed vicar for deacons and director of the permanent deacon formation program for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla.

Rev. R. Adam Forno, M.Div. 1986 (THEO), became the Sons of Italy’s national chaplain during the order’s 51st biennial convention in California last August. He is the pastor of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph in Rensselaer, N.Y. He is also chaplain for the Sons of Italy’s Grand Lodge of New York, continues his hospice ministry, is chaplain to Rensselaer firemen and police, and serves on several boards.

The University of Akron has hired Rob Ianello, B.A. 1987 (A&S), as its head football coach. He was formerly interim head coach/assistant coach for offense of the University of Notre Dame football team. He and his wife, Denise, have a son, Zachary, and two daughters, Ashley and Courtney.

Lisa M. Geis, B.A. 1988 (A&S), is a 2009 winner of the Mary Philbrook Student Public Interest Award from the Rutgers School of Law.

Camille Q. Solberg, B.A. 1989 (PHIL), was recently elected to the U.S. Council for Puerto Rico Statehood board of directors. The Washington, D.C.-based council advocates for Puerto Rican statehood as being in the best interests of all Americans. Solberg is a Puerto Rican native, a nationally published columnist and a former federal drug-free communities commissioner. She lives in New London, Wis.

‘90s

Amy Kossow, M.F.A. 1990 (A&S), of Piedmont, Calif., is developing a new play based on the John Steinbeck novel The Pastures of Heaven with her Word for Word theater company and the California Shakespeare Theater. They have been awarded an NEA new-play-development grant, and will premiere the play in California in June 2010 and later bring it to Washington, D.C.’s Arena Stage.

Bernadette McNary-Zak, M.A. 1990 (THEO), of Germantown, Tenn., has co-edited the book Resurrecting the Brother of Jesus: The James Ossuary Controversy and the Quest for Religious Relics (University of North Carolina Press). The book concerns the 2002 news of a burial box supposedly containing the bones of James, the brother of Jesus. Within a few months the ossuary box was determined to be a forgery.

Jennifer (Reardon) Collins, B.S.N. 1992 (NURS), received her Ph.D. in nursing in December 2009 from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Michael Roche, B.M. 1992 (MUSIC), illustrated a new children’s book titled Zimba: Believe (Xlibris). In the story, Zimba, a colorful turtle, faces challenges of growing up, learning to be happy and believing in himself. Roche lives in Wayne, Pa., with his wife, Barby, and their three children, Dylan, Samantha and Shane.

Bernardo O. Bustamante, M.C.E. 1994 (ENGR), is program manager for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program. He works for the Federal Highway Administration,
overseeing the federal interests associated with the Chicago-area project, which is investing billions to improve the region’s rail infrastructure and the quality of life of area residents. He and his wife have two school-age children and live in Berwyn, Ill.

Donald Erickson, B.A. 1994 (A&S), of Silver Spring, Md., completed the Baltimore and New York City marathons this fall. He would love to hear stories from any CUA alumni who ran either race and who might be interested in running a marathon next year.

Sara Grant, B.A. 1995 (A&S), of Townsend, Mass., received her master’s degree in management with a focus on information systems through the Harvard University Extension School in June 2009.

Laura (Hake) Giacalone, B.A. 1997 (A&S), has been hired as vice president of marketing for Planet Green, a lifestyle and entertainment satellite and cable TV channel run by Discovery Communications. The channel is devoted to the environment and sustainable living.

Rev. Raúl Gómez, S.D.S., Ph.D. 2001 (THEO), was elected a corresponding academic member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Historical Sciences of Toledo (Real Academia de Bellas Artes y Ciencias Históricas de Toledo) in Spain. The investiture took place at the academy in October 2009. Father Gómez was elected in part because of his prize-winning 2007 book, Mozarabs, Hispanics and the Cross (Orbis). Mozarabs were Christians who lived in Spain and Portugal under Muslim rule during the Middle Ages, and the term is still used for their contemporary descendants. Father Gómez is also vice president for academic affairs at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis.

Kevin Nowak, B.S.Arch. 2001, M.Arch. 2002 (ARCH), has passed the architectural registration exam and is now a licensed architect in Massachusetts. He has also completed the LEED green building exam and is a LEED accredited professional. He and his wife, Kelly, have recently relocated to the Philadelphia area.

Motria Lanchyna, B.S.N. 2004 (NURS), was awarded the Lundbeck Neonatal Nursing Career Path Scholarship to help further her education to become a neonatal nurse practitioner. Currently a nurse at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., she was one of two nurses to be awarded the scholarship.


Brother Lawrence Anderson, O.F.M., M.S.W. 2007 (SOCSV), a Franciscan friar with the New York City-based Holy Name Province — the nation’s largest community of Franciscan brothers and priests — was ordained a transitional deacon on Sept. 5 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He is serving a yearlong internship at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Pompton Lakes, N.J.

Deborah DeGeorge Harbin, M.F.A. 2007 (A&S), wrote the play Fertile Ground: Stories from Messiah College’s First 100 Years, which was presented at Messiah College’s Miller Auditorium in October 2009. An innovative telling of three stories from the college’s history, the show was presented as part of the college’s centennial celebration. She graduated from Messiah College in 2003.

Sean Owens, B.S.Arch. 2008 (ARCH), of Silver Spring, Md., has been working with an architecture firm in Washington, D.C. He has been involved in projects at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the National Portrait Gallery and the Library of Congress’ Jefferson Building. He is hoping to focus on restoration and redevelopment projects in the private sector in the future. He also draws a cartoon series about life in his hometown of Kansas City.

Barbara Petro, B.A. 2008 (A&S), of Washington, D.C., in November 2009 carried out a project called “I RAN Home (In America),” which included an exhibition of three contemporary Iranian-American artists and four public events highlighting aspects of Iranian culture. She co-curated the exhibition and co-directed the events with Isabella Hughes, and the project took place at The Fridge DC, a multifunctional art space in Capitol Hill. The project was featured in The Washington Post, Express, Washington City Paper and DailyCandy. More than 700 people viewed the exhibition and participated in the events.

Motria Lanchyna

Kristen M. McCarron

Kristen “Kristy” M. McCarron, B.S. 2009 (A&S), is serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for one year at the L’Arche community in Spokane, Wash.
L’Arche Spokane is a community of three homes where core members (adults with developmental disabilities) live together in Christian community with assistants who are full-time live-in care providers.

Rev. John F. Naugle, S.T.B. 2009 (THEO), was ordained a priest by Bishop of Pittsburgh David Zubik on June 27, 2009. Father Naugle’s home parish is Holy Innocents in Sheraden, Pa. In addition to graduating from CUA’s seminary, he has obtained degrees from SaintVincent College and Duquesne University/St. Paul Seminary.

Andrew Schrock, B.A. 2009 (A&S), was awarded exhibition space for his sculptures at the PULSE Contemporary Art Fair, which took place in Miami in December 2009. His sculptures were shown in August at “Academy 2009,” an invitational exhibition of outstanding work by recent fine-art graduates hosted annually by the gallery Conner Contemporary Art in Washington, D.C.


Daniel Conway, B.S. 2004 (A&S), and Blythe Wyatt, B.A. 2006 (A&S), were married on Sept. 18, 2009. There were more than 30 CUA alumni in attendance.

The newlyweds live in Washington, D.C. the gallery Conner Contemporary

Christopher Green, B.A. 2004 (A&S), married Jade Post on Jan. 17, 2009. Michael Gibbons, B.A. Mgmt. 2009 (PS), and Jeffry Newberger, B.M. 2004, M.M. 2006 (MUSIC), were members of the wedding party. Also in attendance were Beth Renc Kens, B.A. 2004 (A&S), and Jared Benoit, B.S. Arch. 2004 (ARCH). The newlyweds live in Mount Holly, N.J.


Katie Schroeder, B.A. 2004 (A&S), married Lawrence Combs on Aug. 14, 2009. Several CUA alums were in attendance. The newlyweds live in Saint James, N.Y.

Adrian Saunders, B.S. Arch. 2006 (ARCH), married Jennifer Primrose on Aug. 8, 2009. They live in Washington, D.C., where Adrian is a freelance designer and is attending graduate school at CUA and Jennifer is a sixth-grade teacher for Prince George's County, Md., public schools.

Births


Christopher Davis, B.A. 1992 (A&S), and wife Jennifer announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Layne, on Sept. 4, 2009. Benjamin joins his older brother, William, 2. The family lives in Minneapolis.

Ray Nedohon, B.A. 1992 (A&S), and wife Jesse announce the birth of their son, Andrew

Dean, on Nov. 19, 2009. Also this past July, Ray legally adopted Jesse’s 5-year-old daughter, Madison (Maddy). Maddy’s biological father was killed in an accident when Maddy was 9 months old and her mother and Ray got married in June 2008. The family lives in Crown Point, Ind.

Lena Holleran-Austin, B.A. 1993 (A&S), and husband Peter announce the birth of Shannon on Aug. 10, 2009. Shannon’s older sister is Bridget. The family lives in Amston, Conn.


Maximilian J.L. Wittenberg


Christine (Yokoyama) Leming, J.D. 1995 (LAW), and husband Vincent announce the birth of a girl, Lorali Mei, on Jan. 3, 2010. The baby is also welcomed by her siblings, Vincent, 18, Amber, 4, Benjamin, 2, and Tiia, 1. The family resides in Southern California.

Thais de Leon-Perez, B.B.E. 1995 (ENGR), and husband Marian announce the birth of their son, Jose Mariano, on June 16, 2009. He joins his big sisters Gabriella, Carolina, Thais Cristina, and Gianna. The family lives in Miami Springs, Fl.


Mary Mulcahy Devilbiss, B.A. 1999 (A&S), and Jack Devilbiss, B.S.Arch. 2000, M.Arch. 2002 (ARCH), welcomed their second son, Conall Finbar, on July 24, 2009. He joins his brother, Declan, 3. The family lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Scott Privat, B.A. 2001 (A&S), and wife Alison had their first child, Charles Joseph, on July 30, 2009. They live in Crowley, La.


Catherine “Katie” (Lang) Ferry, B.C.E. 2002 (ENGR), and husband Jake announce the birth of their son Nathaniel Jacob on Aug. 18, 2009. Nathaniel joins his sister, Anna. Katie and Jake work as environmental engineers. The family lives in Wayne, Pa.

Leigh-Anne Dean Garry, B.A. 2004 (A&S), and husband Alan announce the birth of their first child, Mary Katherine, on Aug. 31, 2009. They live in Oreland, Pa.


Katherine Koziol, B.M. 2004 (MUSIC), and husband Ryan announce the birth of their second child, Owen Parker; on Nov. 3, 2009. He joins his sister, Avery, 2. The family lives in Anacortes, Wash., and Ryan serves as a naval aviator at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

Obituaries


Catherine Bolger Heintz, M.S.W. 1950, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Sept. 24, 2009.


Mary E. Keenan Stower, who attended CUA’s School of Nursing Education from 1949 to 1951, of Cornelius, N.C., Oct. 27, 2009.


Anthony F. Musolino, B.Arch. 1953, of Aldey, Va., June 29, 2009.


Henry Gibson (whose name was James Bateman while at CUA), B.A. 1957, of Malibu, Calif., Sept. 14, 2009.


Mary L. Shaffer, M.S.L.S. 1959, of Bradenton, Fla., Nov. 27, 2008.


Former Faculty/Staff


Kenneth Noland, lecturer in the Department of Art from 1951 to 1960, of Port Clyde, Maine, Jan. 5, 2010.


It’s mid-afternoon on a warm spring day in 2009 and my husband, Andrew, and I are pacing back and forth in our hotel room in China. The anticipation mounts as we take turns peering out the door — today we will see our soon-to-be daughter in person for the first time.

The phone rings. It is our guide. She says there has been a traffic delay on a one-lane road in the countryside, so the orphanage director coming to the city with our baby will be running late.

Another hour passes. Again the phone rings. Our daughter is not here yet, but the guide says it shouldn’t be much longer. She asks us to call room service and order some congee (rice porridge) and to prepare a bottle for our 13-month-old girl. Furthermore, she warns us that our daughter will likely be very hungry and fussy upon arrival. What is typically a two-hour car ride from the orphanage has turned into more than a three-hour journey for our baby.

The phone rings again. Our guide says the orphanage director just arrived and is getting out of the car with our daughter. They’ll be heading upstairs now and we will get to meet our baby girl in a few minutes!

For us, this moment is the culmination of two and a half years of paperwork, prayer and patience in the hopes of adopting a child. And what a journey it has been!

Adoption is one of those things I remember thinking as a child that I wanted to do someday. But the idea also seemed complicated and a little far-fetched, so it wasn’t much more than a fleeting thought at the time. In fact, I’d actually nearly forgotten about it until Andrew and I were dating and he asked me if I desired to have children. He mentioned he was open to building a family by having biological children or adopting. We decided to pursue both options, and adopting from China was an obvious choice for our family since Andrew is of Chinese descent.

Prior to adopting, we had one biological son, who was 3½ when his sister arrived from China. The way we’ve explained adoption to our son is that it is one way that families can grow bigger. We’ve explained that we are all special because we are all God’s children. And in the same way that God picked our son for our family and
us for him, God chose a baby girl from China for our family and us for her.

The adoption process was filled with essays, photos, interviews, personal records, medical exams and fingerprints. Some items on the checklist were required not only of my husband and me, but also of our son, and of my in-laws, who live with us. And some items needed to be submitted multiple times to keep our file current during the long wait. One of the many vivid memories I have of the paperwork process involves herding the whole family, in-laws included, into the minivan to go to the police station for fingerprinting.

The process was at times tedious, intrusive, overwhelming, expensive and unpredictable; yet it was also insightful. I couldn’t help but think that the process should be required of everyone wanting to become a parent. It made us consider and reconsider why we wanted to have a child, why we were pursuing adoption, and how we were going to provide and care for a child placed in our care.

We were overjoyed to get “the call” late one evening from our adoption agency announcing that a little girl had been referred to us. The trials of the adoption process quickly faded into distant memories the moment I laid eyes on a photo of the child God had chosen for us to adopt. Our hearts melted as we read her file. It seemed as though we simply couldn’t get to China fast enough to bring her home.

The five weeks that followed were filled with packing and other travel preparations. We packed for ourselves for a two-week trip, we blindly packed for a baby girl we knew only through three photos and information from a documented medical exam, and we also assembled a suitcase for our son, who would stay at my parents’ house while we went to China.

It was during that busy time that I first had to put pen to paper giving our daughter an American name. My husband let me pick the name. I knew all along that for her middle name I wanted to use the middle name of my late grandmother on my dad’s side of the family — Pearl. It seemed so fitting for our adoptive daughter, as the word “pearl” can be defined as “one that is very choice or precious.”

As for the first name, a seemingly random choice came to me during the adoption wait. No matter how many times I skimmed through the hundreds of names in the thick baby-name book or on baby-name Web sites, I kept coming back to the same name — Lia. So, she would be Lia Pearl Wong.

It wasn’t until the day we received Lia in China that I would discover why that particular choice for her first name was just meant to be.

Andrew and I have such precious memories of the first few minutes and hours we spent with Lia after she was handed to us in our hotel room in China. Yes, she was crying for a while, but eventually she calmed down. How traumatic it must have been for her to transition from familiar faces and surroundings to being cared for by total strangers. And how silly might Lia think it someday to hear she was once fearful of us.

After Lia fell asleep that first night, I opened a little booklet that the orphanage director had handed to us earlier. How amazing! It was a baby book of sorts that chronicled time she spent in an infant-nurturing program at the orphanage. The program was funded by a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that collects quarterly reports about each orphan under its care. Lia’s caretaker had apparently put the report information along with some other things into a memory booklet to give to the family who would adopt her.

Halfway through the booklet was a photo of Lia’s caretaker and a name underneath the photo. While most of the writing was in Chinese, there were some dates and names that were also written in English letters. My eyes teared up and I grinned in astonishment as I read the name of the woman who cared for our daughter in her first year of life — Li Yao (pronounced lee-yow) — about as close as Chinese gets to the name of Lia.

Due to the economic recession and other factors, the first adoption agency the Wongs applied to had to close its doors. The economic climate remains especially tough for nonprofit organizations, says Carmen, who, until leaving her job last year to stay at home with her children, was a senior program manager for the Association of Small Foundations, based in Washington, D.C. Grateful for the care Lia received through the U.S.-funded program at the Chinese orphanage, Carmen hopes for the sake of the children that similar programs and international adoptions will continue.
Being There for People

I graduated from CUA in 1985 with a master’s in psychology. Being Jewish often makes me a spectator of the endeavors at CUA as I read about the events in the magazine. However, the Summer 2009 issue’s report on the presence of “older adults” [serving as public safety assistants] in the residence halls manifested an immediate desire in me to connect with CUA’s leadership.

I have been a registered nurse since 1994 when I completed my third college degree while raising two young boys by myself. I became a nurse because of a deep-seated belief that a person “being there” makes the difference in whether one heals quickly, slowly or not at all. Whether that healing comes from the presence of a kind adult in the residence hall, at the bedside or over the phone — it makes a difference.

I am proud to be delivering health care at one of the nonprofits making a difference for the poor and underserved. Community Care of North Carolina provides case management to Medicaid patients with chronic disease and has begun to serve the uninsured. I work solely with uninsured adults, many of them homeless. I have seen and heard, repeatedly, that my voice encouraging people to seek care and coaching them on how to present their issues has made the difference in their lives. Being an advocate, educator and knowledgeable professional has given me the opportunity to serve others in a profound way that has undoubtedly helped me heal and renew my spirit.

I am thrilled to see that CUA is using resources to provide a living, breathing presence to youth on campus. In this world of instant messaging I find many people not being able to connect. In this day when many bare it all on Facebook, the need to feel cared about by another has never been greater.

Annette E. “Libby” Libner
Candler, N.C.

Passing of a Third Compadre

In your Fall 2009 issue, you note the death of Rev. Paul T. Twiddy, B.A. 1948. Paul’s passing means I’m the last survivor of a unique foursome from the freshman class of 1940. Therein hangs a tale.

I met Paul during registration in September 1940 while we were scrambling to buy textbooks, used if we could find them. He came across a good deal for our Western Civilization course, but having spent all his funds he asked me to lend him $4 (at that time a goodly sum). With hesitation and anxiety I doled out four singles. But I need not have worried. The next day, bright and early, he repaid me.

The next time I remember meeting Paul was in the gymnasium where we freshmen had gathered to be assigned to the required physical education class. For some reason, Paul and I had conflicts for all of the P.E. classes. We also discovered that there were two other freshmen with similar difficulty. One was Karl Hansen from Iowa and the other was Egon Wildermuth, whose father was a political officer in the German Embassy. The assistant coach in charge of organizing the P.E. classes hit upon an ingenious solution. He gave us a handball, directed us to the outdoor handball courts and instructed us to play an hour each week at a time available to all four.

I had played a little handball as a boy but never on a formal court. I believe none of the others had ever played at all. Within a short time all of us became quite proficient. We had a marvelous time all year and at times played more handball than was required to fulfill our P.E. requirement.

Paul and I remained close personally. When the war came, I enlisted in the Army and Paul enlisted in the Navy. After the war and after we graduated from Catholic University, Paul went off to seminary while I continued my studies. Some years ago I discovered Paul had retired and was living in Charlotte Hall, Md. I visited him, but sadly I found we had little in common except for our experience at Catholic University. Despite this separation, I was saddened to read of the passing of Paul on July 2, 2009, the last of my handball partners during our freshman year at Catholic University, 1940–41.

Karl M. Schmitt
B.A. 1947, M.A. 1949
Austin, Texas

Three of the four handball partners — Schmitt, Wildermuth and Twiddy — in front of Gibbons Hall in 1941.
A Material Girl in a Modern World

For three days last fall, the Roaring '20s came to life as "modern girls" with bobbed hair and flapper dresses and men in fedoras and suits took over the stage in CUA's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music production of Thoroughly Modern Millie. The Tony Award-winning musical follows Millie (played by sophomore musical theatre major Nora Palka), a small-town girl who moves to New York City on the hunt for a rich man to marry so she can "see how the other half lives."
A record number of CUA students — more than 500 — participated in the 2010 March for Life.