At noon on a sunny fall day, the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center Lobby is abuzz. Hungry students rush in and out of the Food Court or join the animated line up the steps to the Student Restaurant. Baked goods are being sold at long tables. Friends greet friends.

Above the fray in the atrium, 10 or so CUA students and staff arrayed on the upholstered chairs chat, knitting and crochet needles and colorful yarns in hand. They are members of the Knitting and Crocheting Service project, crafting scarves and hats to be distributed to people who are homeless by the Office of Campus Ministry and baby blankets and tiny booties for babies born to young mothers, given through the Christ Child Society.

Martha Krichbaum, undergraduate transfer coordinator for the School of Arts and Sciences, came up with the idea of a service project using knitting and crocheting in response to President John Garvey’s service challenge for the 125th anniversary of Catholic University. “I’ve been thinking a long time about how to pass these ancient skills on,” she says. “The challenge prompted me to do something about it.”

Starting with a core of eight, the group has grown to 35, including students and staff as well as longtime knitter Jeanne Garvey, the President’s wife.

Through the Campus Ministry Homeless Food runs, students distributed the first batch of 21 scarves and eight hats before Thanksgiving; the remaining hats and scarves were given out during the final food runs of the fall semester. “We made a total of 19 hats and 48 scarves and completed five baby blankets and a pair of booties for the Christ Child Society,” says Krichbaum, of the efforts by the group during the first semester.

Members of the group bring their own yarn or can use yarn donated to the group by the mother of Georgia Niedzielski, assistant dean for academic affairs at the Columbus School of Law. “Macular degeneration forced her to stop crocheting,” says Niedzielski. “She wanted to donate her yarn to someone who would use it to help others.”

Helping others is the main goal of the Knitting and Crocheting Service project. But besides beautiful and useful hats, scarves, and blankets, members of the project have created something they didn’t expect: They’ve become a community. Krichbaum finds that result very satisfying and reports that the group will continue meeting to knit and crochet throughout the spring 2012 semester and perhaps beyond. “This has turned out to be a good community builder as well as a service project.”

— C.C.
125th Anniversary
CUA Hits Service Hours Goal Early

On Jan. 24, nearly two and a half months ahead of schedule, The Catholic University of America achieved its goal of recording 125,000 hours of charitable service. By early February, the number of service hours recorded had hit more than 152,000.

University President John Garvey urged the community to continue the service initiative, adding, “It will be interesting to see just how far we can go.” The final tally will be announced on campus on Founders Day, April 10.

Service by CUA community members — faculty, staff, alumni, and students — is part of the University’s 125th anniversary celebration, which started last fall. The spring 2012 semester ushered in more events that marked the anniversary, from a history-related scavenger hunt for students to an exhibit of student life memorabilia to a concert featuring music from CUA’s rich musical history.

The exhibit “A Home Away from Home: 125 Years of the Student Experience at Catholic University” runs through May 18 at the John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library. Items on display include photographs, historical athletic trophies, musical instruments from the original campus band, and objects from the University’s museum and archival collections such as beanies and varsity sweaters.

On Jan. 27, Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., president of Providence College and a former CUA philosophy professor, delivered a lecture in celebration of the anniversary. In honor of the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of Catholic University, Father Shanley gave a talk about the saint to an audience that filled Aquinas Hall Auditorium.

In February, the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music took the community back to those halcyon days when C.U. men, as they were known, wore ties and starched collars to class. “Songs of Old CUA” — an original musical revue celebrating Catholic University music not heard for decades — was presented Feb. 12 at the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center before a crowd of about 400, including many alumni. The multimedia revue featured singing, dancing, and performances by the CUA Wind Ensemble and the Flying Cardinals Dance Band. Afterward, SingCo Rhythm Orchestra, led by University voice instructor Doug Bowles, M.M. 1993, performed an American dance band repertoire while members of the University community did the Lindy Hop and the Charleston.

For complete coverage of 125th anniversary events including video of “Songs of Old CUA,” visit www.cua.edu/125.

To view a photo gallery of “Songs of Old CUA,” visit the digital edition of CUA Magazine at http://cuamagazine.cua.edu

South Campus Development Under Way

Monroe Street Market — a $200 million mixed-use development on Catholic University’s southern edge — was hailed as an endeavor that will unite the University and surrounding Brookland neighborhood during a Nov. 9 groundbreaking ceremony.

The University has partnered with residential real estate company The Bozzuto Group, developer Abdo Development, and real estate investment company Pritzker Realty Group on the project, which will consist of approximately 720 residential units, 45 townhomes, 83,000 square feet of street-level retail, 15,000 square feet of artist studio space, a 3,000 square-foot community arts center, and 850 parking spaces.

Before a tent overflowing with spectators, Catholic University President John Garvey joined Tom Bozzuto, chairman and CEO of The Bozzuto Group, and Jim Abdo, president and CEO of Abdo Development, for the groundbreaking. Also present were representatives of the partnering companies along with D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and other D.C. government officials.

Garvey said Monroe Street Market was important to both the University and the neighborhood since it provides the “opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Brookland and provide [it] with access to the same amenities our students will enjoy.”

Mayor Gray said the project should serve as a “prototype” for relationships between universities and their surrounding communities.

“All too often we spend time fighting about whether universities are going to have their students living on campus or off, whether their growth is going to encroach on life and the amenities in the community,” he explained. “Monroe Street Market is exactly the opposite. Catholic University is integrating itself in the community by bringing retail, amenities, and a constructive relationship to the University and the surrounding community.”

One of the hallmarks of Monroe Street Market is a large plaza that will be named Bishop O’Connell Square in honor of the University’s 14th president, Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M., who now leads the Diocese of Trenton, N.J. It was during his tenure that the vision of developing the University’s south campus took shape.

The multiphase development is located on five city blocks adjacent to the Brookland-CUA Metro station. The first phase, consisting of 562 residential units, is scheduled for completion in summer 2013.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff served their Washington, D.C., neighbors in need on Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

March for Life

Nearly 500 CUA students participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 23.

To view photo galleries of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the March for Life, visit the digital edition of CUA Magazine at http://cuamagazine.cua.edu.

Chicago Cardinal to Host 2012 Cardinals Dinner

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., archbishop of Chicago and a CUA alumnus and trustee, invites the University’s alumni and friends to the 23rd annual American Cardinals Dinner, which will be held in his archdiocese on Friday, April 27, 2012. The black-tie dinner will take place at the Hilton Chicago Hotel. A Mass at Holy Name Cathedral will precede the dinner, which is co-hosted by CUA President John Garvey. Since its inauguration in 1989, the event has raised more than $26 million to provide scholarship support for CUA students. For more information on the Cardinals Dinner, visit http://cardinalsdiinner.cua.edu/dinner.

CUA Picked for Solar Decathlon

Students in the Solar Decathlon studio/research class at the Edward M. Crough Center for Architectural Studies have set their sights on 2013, when their entry in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon will be installed at a California park. The selection of Team Capitol D.C. Harvest — one of just 20 worldwide — marks the first time that Catholic University has been chosen to participate in the prestigious competition. It is also the first time that any university in Washington, D.C., has been tapped for the decathlon.

Led by CUA architecture majors, the team also includes students from American and George Washington universities. The competition challenges teams to build a net-zero house, which generates more energy than it draws from the electrical grid. In past years, the houses have been located in D.C. on the National Mall for public viewing. For the 2013 competition, the houses will be installed at Orange County Great Park in Irvine, Calif.

Team Capitol D.C. Harvest will showcase the latest in green building technologies and “stress nature and technology’s dual role in promoting architecture that contributes to sustainability,” says Rauzia Ally, project director and instructor in the School of Architecture and Planning.

The team’s one-story 850-square-foot house with two bedrooms, bathroom, living room, and kitchen will feature “a strong focus on healthy design to promote healthy living,” notes Ally.

Randall Ott, dean of architecture and planning, describes the selection of the CUA-led team as “another significant milestone in the rich history of the school,” which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Catholic University’s architecture and planning school is the largest in the Washington, D.C., area.

Engineering Students Bring Solar Energy to Franciscan Monastery

While Catholic University Associate Professor Scott Mathews was looking for a hands-on project for his engineering students in the Alternative and Renewable Energy program, Brother John-Sebastian, O.F.M., at the Franciscan Monastery in Northeast D.C., was searching for ways to go green.

Brother John-Sebastian called, and Mathews responded with a plan to build a solar energy system.

Mathews led a small group of his students in an extra-credit project in which they constructed a system consisting of six solar panels.

On weekend afternoons, from February through May of 2011, the group surveyed land, dug a large hole for the system’s footer, poured concrete, laid underground piping to protect delicate wires, and installed the solar panels, batteries, an inverter to convert the solar DC power to AC power, and a state-of-the-art tracking system to follow the sun through the day.

The solar system is a workhorse, producing enough energy to run several industrial ventilation fans “24/7,” says Joe Bozik, treasurer of the Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild and one of 40 volunteer gardeners. During sunlight hours, the system powers the fans. At the same time it powers batteries, which keep the fans running at night. There has been such an “abundance” of electricity, notes Brother John-Sebastian, that the monastery installed extra lights.
New Vice President for Institutional Advancement

H. Ken DeDominicis is Catholic University’s new vice president for institutional advancement. DeDominicis has more than 25 years of professional fundraising experience in the field of higher education, including two decades at the vice presidential level.

DeDominicis comes to Catholic University from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, where he had been vice president for institutional advancement since 1999. He held the same title at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi from 1991 to 1999.

DeDominicis has a proven track record in higher education fundraising. He raised $67 million in the largest capital campaign in St. Thomas’ history, and at Texas A&M he organized the first capital campaign, raising $22 million against a goal of $15 million.

In his new role, DeDominicis will oversee the development and alumni relations offices.

New AVP for Facilities Operations

Jerry Conrad is CUA’s new associate vice president for facilities operations. He is an accomplished architect with extensive private sector experience in construction and facilities management, design, engineering, and real estate management. He obtained his LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional certification in 2004 and has expertise in sustainable practices. Conrad is a CUA alumnus who earned his master’s degree from the School of Architecture and Planning in 1998.

John Rist is First Pritzl Chair

John Rist, most recently a visiting professor at Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum in Rome, became the first Father Kurt Pritzl, O.P., Chair in Philosophy in January.

The endowed chair was announced in 2009 after the University was given an anonymous gift of $2.5 million to recognize the leadership of Father Pritzl, who joined the faculty of the School of Philosophy in 1980, and served as the school’s dean from 2000 until his death in 2011. The chair creates an additional permanent position on the faculty of the philosophy school.

Rist is highly regarded as a scholar, teacher, and author, says John McCarthy, dean of the philosophy school. His interests range from ancient Greek philosophy to Hellenistic philosophy, Plotinus and Neoplatonism, Greek and Roman Patristics, and medieval philosophy.

Rist has written extensively on ethics and is the author of 14 books and more than 100 scholarly essays and articles.

Deans Miles and Zabora to Step Down

Veryl Miles, dean of the Columbus School of Law, will step down at the end of June, concluding seven years in that role. Miles has taught at the law school since 1987 and will continue to serve as professor of law.

Under Miles’ leadership, the law school began offering a summer program in Rome focusing on international human rights and a new clinical project devoted to consumer protection law. In addition, the school has enjoyed a substantial rise in the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

James Zabora, dean of the National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS), will step down from his position effective Aug. 1 and will return as a full-time member of the NCSSS faculty.

Zabora took the helm of NCSSS on Aug. 1, 2002. He came to CUA from the Johns Hopkins University, where he had been the associate director of the Sloan Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Zabora has been credited with nurturing strong clinical outreach for NCSSS and affording students a wide diversity of placements to optimize their application of social work research. He led the effort to transfer the B.A. program in social work from the School of Arts and Sciences to NCSSS.