Majestic Buildings, Beautiful Grounds

Each year when we welcome a new crop of students on move-in day, I meet a few moms and dads who are returning to campus after several or many years. Some of them are here to drop off a son or daughter for the second or third time. Others are alumni and recall being dropped off at Orientation by their parents many years ago. When I ask these veteran parents about the experience of returning to Catholic University, one reflection they share is particularly common: “Campus looks more beautiful than ever.”

Historically, beauty has played an important role in shaping the major structures on campus. Our oldest buildings, Caldwell and McMahon halls, are magnificent. They imbue our campus with a sense of continuity with the past, and serve as a visual reminder of our history also shape our students, fortifying their moral and intellectual formation.

Our landscaping figures in a Michelangelo fresco, they are all kinds of shrubs and other plants to create a frame for our buildings, and to highlight their most beautiful features. Our landscaping crew masterfully coordinates the color and texture of our flora, and choreographs the bloom cycles of our trees and flowers so that campus always looks vibrant. When we realized a couple of years back that we had lost a significant number of trees over the past 30 years, we partnered with the Casey Foundation to help restore our tree canopy. During the coming years we hope to restore even more natural beauty to campus by replacing some of our parking lots and roadways with grassy quads and walkways.

As we make further improvements to the buildings and grounds of Catholic University, beauty will continue to play a central role, as it does on many other college and university campuses. But for us, beauty’s role is about more than appearances. We believe that the beauty and harmony we foster on campus is a reflection of the beauty and harmony in God’s creation. The visual balance and unity sought by the planners, architects, and landscapers who have shaped campus throughout our history also shape our students, fortifying their moral and intellectual formation.

For the record, the students in the Rathskellar photo on page 13 of the summer issue are the best moving brawn I’ve ever seen! Looking for off-campus housing with my dad. Found a great house owned by Mrs. Michaels and moved in with four great gals who remained lifelong friends. I graduated in 1953 so this goes way back. My first day on campus was spent at the speech and drama department. Father Hartke took us all under his wing. What great memories!

— Brian DeAvila

“I keep deciding to be a priest every day. It’s a continual commitment and a continual falling deeper in love with God.”

— Rev. Mark Morozowich

Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies in a National Catholic Register article on Aug. 13 about his appointment as dean.

“At first I didn’t know what to expect, but now it always makes my week. They’re so happy and always asking, how I’m doing,” said Reilly, a 21-year-old nursing major from Medford, N.J. “They teach you so much about life.”

— Katie Reilly

CUA senior in the Catholic Standard on Sept. 25, about visiting elderly residents of the Little Sisters of the Poor’s Jeanne Jugan Residence.

For more alumni stories, visitCUAlumni.com.

Let us know what you think of this issue.

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Survey Says

A sample of comments on the redesigned magazine sent via an online survey:

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