

FROM NUGENT HALL

by President John Garvey

A Win for Women

Last year was the 40th anniversary of Title IX. Our students are too young to remember when it passed, though some of our alumni might. It was created to prevent discrimination or exclusion from educational programs and activities on the basis of sex. The most visible impact was on women's sports.

The anniversary of Title IX has personal relevance for me. Playing sports was a boon for our daughters and daughters-in-law. Two of our girls, Becky and Katie, played soccer in high school. Our youngest, Clare, swam. Katie Elizabeth (our daughter-in-law) has run the Boston Marathon a few times; Shannon (our other daughter-in-law) swam for Notre Dame. Playing a sport helped them to strike a healthy balance between work and recreation in high school and college. It built their confidence. Being an athlete made them more independent and simultaneously, more team oriented. They became strong, goal-driven women.

More important than that, playing sports helped them to cultivate virtues. Being a part of a team and having to get along with the other girls made them more charitable. Losing taught them to be humble; winning taught them to be magnanimous. They learned patience as they struggled to set a new personal record or develop a new skill. They acquired perseverance when they had to get through a bad season. On and off the field, they learned to use their time prudently to balance their academic and athletic commitments.

As a dad one of the things I appreciated was that sports helped keep our girls more wholesome. They developed confidence around men. They built real friendships with other girls. That helped when they had to navigate the social complexities that come



The women's basketball team captured the Landmark Conference championship Feb. 23 at the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center.

with being a teenager. They developed healthy body images rooted in admiration for the Williams sisters or Mia Hamm, rather than Kate Moss or Christy Turlington.

Our girls are all out of college now. But they carried the lessons they learned on the field into the workplace and into their lives as moms and wives. I think they are stronger and better for having played sports. The same can be said of our women athletes at Catholic University. They come to us as remarkable young women already, determined to juggle a sport and a rigorous academic schedule (many of our women athletes wind up in our toughest majors). Playing a sport in college requires exceptional dedication and diligence, and our female athletes rise to the occasion.

From our end, building a good athletics program for both women and men has the

tremendous benefit of helping us to attract and retain good students. We aren't trying to be the next Alabama or USC — at those schools being an athlete is a full-time job. Our student-athletes come here because they want a balance between academics and athletics. They are successful in the classroom. The average GPAs for our athletes are above the University average. They are also successful on the field. Our women's lacrosse team has won the last five Landmark Conference championships; field hockey and basketball have won the last two.

But what I like best is that athletics contributes to the overall happiness of our women student-athletes. It is a happiness I saw in our girls, too. I'm glad Title IX helped make that possible for all of them.

"YA CUA!!!! Mens and womens basketball both landmark conference champions!!!! #gocards #cua

— @Jessica_Henry1 (Feb. 23, 2013)



Editor's Note: We received several letters in response to the two-page article on the 75th anniversary of the drama department (Fall 2012 issue). Following are three notes mentioning other prominent names in the department's history:

When I was a Basselin Scholar in the early '40s, some of us asked Mrs. Josephine McGarry Callan to help with our public speaking and reading. When I read the article on Hartke's founding the department, I expected to see her name. When Mrs. Callan read John Masefield's poem, "Sea Fever," and got to the line "and the sea gulls crying," we could hear and almost see the sea gulls.

Now I wonder, is the Callan Theatre named for her? She was known to us as "co-founder" or "right hand" of Father Hartke.

— **Rev. John F. Mattingly, S.S.**

B.A. 1944, S.T. L. 1948, M.S.L.S. 1978

Note: Callan Theatre is named for Josephine Callan.

My father, William Graham, worked for the CUA drama department for 40 years and was chairman following Father Hartke's retirement. He is still, at 87 years old, sought for his production feedback and expertise. I am dismayed that you did not mention him in this article about the anniversary of the drama department.

No person carried on Father Hartke's legacy and vision the way Bill Graham did ... and still does. His loyalties to the drama department and to Father Hartke have remained significant highlights of his lifelong achievements.

— **Laura Graham Fetters**

B.A. 1985

Of course I understand your citing current celebrities and productions, but I do not see how the article could have omitted Walter Kerr and Leo Brady. I could not tell you how often Father Hartke praised these very brilliant and important "pioneers."

I did not know Mr. Kerr, but I read his theatre reviews and criticisms in *The New York Times* for years. He took the CUA philosophy into the public forum.

Mr. Brady was my major professor, and was considered the principal intellect in the drama department during my summers at CUA, 1957 – 1963.

— **Sister Miriam Corcoran, S.C.N.**

M.A. 1963

Concerning the short piece under the "Faith" section on page 12, "Prayer, Pizza, and Presence in Residence Halls." Last year, I was given the privilege of being the first religious reintroduced into residence life in Flather Hall. My mission was simple, to be a presence in the hall for the first-year men who would reside there.

Once there, I realized that I needed to take a more involved role in the life of the hall in order to accomplish more than merely being "a priest who lived in Flather." I turned to the resident assistants, who put into motion what became known as the "Gentlemen of Flather" initiative. The idea was to not only instill in the first-year men qualities mentioned in the piece, but also to create a bond among the members of the class of 2015 that would continue long after they graduated from CUA. Like the Senators' Club, it is anticipated that the Gentlemen of Flather will become an alumni group dedicated to building up the mission and goals of Catholic University.



FORUM

Comments from the CUA community



— **Rev. James G. Sabak, O.F.M.**

B.A. 1985, M.A. 2002, Ph.D. 2012

Our initial response should be careful not to attempt to explain away the suffering by identifying some cause. ... We are not prepared as a society to face such evil without first responding to the countless victims and their families. And this calls for silence. Only silence will enable us to weep and grieve with those who are weeping right now.

— **David Lantigua**

Assistant professor of moral theology, quoted in an article in *The Washington Post* (Dec. 15, 2012) about the shooting in Newtown, Conn.

Though Jesus once said it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven, "it is a misreading of Catholic theology to think that one cannot be a successful business person and a person of faith," says Mr. Abela. He adds that the school teaches students how business might serve others — from satisfying customers to providing employment and creating wealth.

— **Andrew Abela**

Dean of Catholic University's new School of Business and Economics, quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* about the school and its focus on virtues. (Jan. 7, 2013).

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