Catholic University has created a School of Business and Economics that will be distinctly Catholic and character based. The announcement came in early January following a December vote by the Board of Trustees. A three-year process of discernment, evaluation, and planning preceded the decision.

Previously a department housed in the School of Arts and Sciences, the new school will respond to the continuing strong interest in business and economics by many of the University’s current and prospective students while offering a model based on Catholic social doctrine and natural law that is unlike theories prevalent at most leading business schools.

“Business schools focus on teaching commercial skills and rules of ethics, but they neglect the importance of character. Our distinctive idea is to bring the rich resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition and the natural law to bear upon business and economics. This will integrate morality into commercial life and help form the character of our future business leaders,” says Andrew Abela, who was appointed dean of the school and had served as chair of the department.

“We are going to let our Catholic thinking penetrate our curriculum,” Abela says, adding that studies show companies are more competitive and sustainable if they respect the dignity of consumers and employees.

During the first week of classes, students, faculty, and staff gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving in Caldwell Chapel followed by a celebration of the new school in the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center.


The School of Business and Economics is the University’s 13th school.

Two Key Hires

Daniel F. Attridge became dean of the Columbus School of Law on Feb. 1. He was appointed in November after an 18-month national search.

Attridge comes from the Washington, D.C., office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he had been managing partner since 1998. He worked as a trial and appellate lawyer, litigating cases before federal and state courts, administrative agencies, and arbitration panels throughout the United States. His experience includes a wide range of practice cases, including intellectual property, commercial and government contracts, and insurance coverage and discrimination.

Attridge received his B.A. magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center.

“The breadth and depth of Dan Attridge’s experience are exceptional,” says President John Garvey. “Our students and faculty will benefit immeasurably from Mr. Attridge’s decades of experience, his prominence in the profession, and his impressive administrative skills.”

John L. Hannan became the University’s vice president for institutional advancement in February.

He has more than 26 years of experience in higher education. Hannan comes to CUA from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he had been since 1995, serving as director of regional development since 2003. In 2012, he was honored as the “Top Performer” among all of Notre Dame’s fundraisers. He began his career in higher education advancement in 1986.

“At this time in the University’s history, we need a transformational leader and prolific fundraiser with the experience, ability, and drive to raise the tens of millions of dollars necessary to realize the visionary changes set forth in our strategic and master plans,” said Garvey about Hannan’s appointment.

Energy Secretary Visits VSL

In January, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) delegation led by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu visited the University’s Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL).

The group, which also included David Huizenga, senior adviser, DOE’s Office of Environmental Management, participated in meetings and a tour of the various VSL labs and projects, most notably to see work in support of the safe immobilization of nuclear wastes at DOE sites around the country.

Researchers at VSL develop processes to more efficiently transform highly radioactive nuclear waste into stable glass that can be disposed of safely. VSL provides support to nuclear facilities in the United States, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

During the tour, Chu and VSL Director and Professor of Physics Ian Pegg discussed potential glass formulation and melt operations enhancements related to the Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. The plant is a DOE nuclear and chemical waste processing facility under construction in Washington state for which VSL is providing research and development support.

While on campus, Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, also made stops at VSL labs doing research on biophysics and nanotechnology led by physics professors Abhijit Sarkar and John Philip.

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30 Years @ CUA

Bernard Lane
Assistant in the President’s Office

Road to the President’s Office
I began working at the University as a contractor with a custodial company in 1978. When the contract ended, I was hired by the University doing maintenance in residence halls. My mother taught me to think of where I’d like to be in five years, and do my best to work to get there. Before the five years were up, I heard that the President’s driver was leaving and applied for that position. Since then I have worked for four University Presidents: Father William Byon, Brother Patrick Ellis, Father (now Bishop) David O’Connell, and John Garvey.

As a native Washingtonian, I thought I knew the city and its streets pretty well, but not as well as I know them now.

More than a Driver
Over the years, I have done much more than drive the President and that’s what I enjoy most about my job. Often new tasks come up unexpectedly. I never get bored. I help with events by setting tables or assisting caterers, helping mail or deliver things for the President’s office, and picking up trustees or important visitors from airports and hotels. I have visited the White House several times with past University Presidents, and met many interesting people, including Ed McMahon, Colin Powell, Clarence Thomas, Roger Staubach, and Lynda Carter.

Favorite Day on Campus
The visit of Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. I spent a lot of my time over those days driving Father O’Connell to and from events with the Pope and hearing about his experiences. The day was not only long for Father O’Connell, but for me, too. But it was so exciting!

Biggest Change on Campus
The new facilities, including the law school, new residence halls, and the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center — where I enjoy spending my lunch hours. I am really looking forward to the completion of the Monroe Street Market. That development will just be phenomenal. — M.M.H.

Aquinas Hall Gets Green Roof
In November, Catholic University installed its third green roof on campus as part of the University’s efforts to foster sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Aquinas Hall, along with Father O’Connell Hall and the Columbus School of Law parking garage, now has its own patch of green, a 1,488-square-foot section of roof covered with a variety of sedum plants. The rest is covered with solar panels.

“This is an outgrowth of our commitment to creating a sustainable campus,” said President John Garvey. “As the national university of the Catholic Church in America, we strive to be a living example of environmental stewardship.”

The roof holds back storm water and curtails runoff, a particularly important concern in the District of Columbia, where storm water management is difficult.

The plants also prevent UV radiation and extreme temperatures from degrading the waterproof plastic sheathing underneath the roof and protect it against damage from airborne debris. The underlying structure is expected to last two to three times longer than it would without an overlay of plants.

Students Explore the Brothers Grimm
Names like Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Snow White, and Hansel and Gretel conjure up beloved stories and spark the imaginations of children and adults alike.

Last year marked the 200th anniversary of the first publication by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, the German brothers who brought these characters to life.

To celebrate the milestone, this fall CUA students delved into the stories of the Brothers Grimm with a course offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Grimm’s Fairy Tales in Their European Context.

The interdisciplinary course taught by Amanda Shiffer (pictured front row, second from the left), clinical assistant professor of German, was offered in English and analyzed the development of the fairy tale over time, with special emphasis on the Grimm’s stories.

The course focused on common motifs in the tales that had a powerful impact in the 19th century and continue to influence storytelling today.

“Reading the tales as adults can be very different from reading them as children. I was excited to have the opportunity to present the Grimm’s fairy tale collection in an academic setting,” Shiffer said.

The course gave Kathleen Brophy, a sophomore theology and religious studies major, new insight into storytelling as a means of expressing the human experience, she said. “[I now] see fairy tales less as a form of entertainment and more as a form of expression,” she said. “Viewing the fairy tale almost as a fantasized national autobiography … reveals the goodness and interests of a people, but also the fascination a people can have with the ‘glamour of evil.’”

Senior Kaleigh Finn, a sociology major from New Fairfield, Conn., said the course helped her recognize the origins of literary devices still used widely today.

“No when I watch fairy tales I see them in a totally different light. You can see how we shape our ideas and stereotypes based on these stories from 200 years ago,” she said.

In November, the class sponsored a weeklong exhibit in the Pryzbyla Center Atrium of eight posters loaned to them by the Goethe-Institut in Washington, D.C. Each poster featured a particular motif of the Grimm’s stories, such as evil villain, magic, or hero, with a 19th-century illustration surrounded by images of modern-day examples from film or literature.

The students wrote descriptions for each poster informing visitors of their significance. Some offered suggestions for further reading; some of the German-speaking students in the course gave translations of the posters’ German text; and others provided personal interpretations of the images.

Shiffer said the exhibit was a chance for students to share the themes in the Grimm’s fairy tales that most interested them, while drawing attention to the way these themes recur in modern stories.

“We all grow up with fairy tales told to us by parents or grandparents and presented in popular films,” Shiffer said. “The bicentennial celebration allowed us to reflect on these stories’ lasting significance as we continue to retell the stories today.” — J.G.
“Spin” Doctor
John Philip

John Philip is an associate professor of physics and a research scientist at the University's Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL) working in the emerging field of spin-based electronics, also known as “spintronics.” Philip established CUA’s spintronics and nanotechnology lab after arriving at the University in 2007. In 2009, he won a $400,000 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grant from the National Science Foundation. He also won CUA’s Young Faculty Award for Achievement in Research in 2010.

Q. When I joined CUA, setting up this lab
A. Curiosity. When I make something at the
Q. What inspires you?
A. When I make something at the
Q. You are interested in opening up nano-
A. We have nanotechnology workshops in
Q. What is there or not. On or off. However, the spin
A. Spintronics is a new technology that
Q. In your research, what have been some of your best experiences?
A. There are several experiences, but training students is at the top. Several high school
Q. How far along are you in your research?
A. You could have smaller, faster, cheaper,
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March for Life
40th Anniversary

Despite temperatures in the low 20s, more than 500 students from Catholic University participated in the 40th annual March for Life on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25. As is customary every year, the University provided overnight accommodations to marchers from out of town. More than 1,200 camped out in the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center the night before the march. Approximately 200 Catholic University student volunteers served as hosts for the visitors. The annual event in Washington, D.C., marks the anniversary of the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in the United States.
Ask the Experts
Exploring College Athletics Programs with Your Child

• **Academics Are Important.** The better your son or daughter does academically, the more options they have at the college level. Academic performance during freshman and sophomore years in high school matters. A strong academic profile will significantly expand athletic opportunities in the future.

• **Assess Options Carefully.** Get an accurate, objective assessment of your son’s or daughter’s athletic ability and how it translates to the college level (i.e., Division I, II, or III). It’s also important to have an honest family conversation about finances for college and the type of college experience your child is interested in.

• **Put the Best Foot Forward.** Every interaction — formal or informal — your child has is an opportunity for a coach to evaluate him or her and vice versa. The competition for scholarships, roster spots, and coaches’ attention is intense at all levels. Character and attitude matter. Also know that coaches and admissions offices look at social networking sites (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) so your child needs to be smart about what he or she shares online.

• **Make the Most of Campus Visits.** You and your child should watch a team during practice and games as much as possible while visiting campus. Assess the team’s needs at your child’s position, and encourage him or her to talk with current players. They can be the best source of accurate information.

• **Find the Right Fit.** Pick a school that is right for you, regardless of the athletic program. You and your child should ask yourselves if the school would still be the right place if he or she had an injury that prevented him or her from playing sports.

— Mike Allen, director of athletics

We Have a Pope!
As the announcement — *Habemus Papam* (We Have a Pope) — comes from St. Peter’s Basilica on the afternoon of March 13, students watching CNN at the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center let out a collective cheer. Many had headed straight to the “Pryz” when they heard bells ringing across campus. Seeing Pope Francis greet the crowds in St. Peter’s Square, many students noted there was no better place to be than Catholic University for this historic moment.

By the Numbers

515
The approximate number of students participating in CUA athletics programs this academic year.