S he was the mother of Jesus. To Christians the world over, she is believed — a saint to whom they look for comfort. She is one of the most popular, recognizable subjects in Western art. Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea is a landmark exhibit featuring more than 60 paintings, sculptures, and textiles by many of the best-known Renaissance and Baroque artists. The exhibit is coming in December to Washington, D.C.’s National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) with program support from scholars at The Catholic University of America and the Archdiocese of Washington.

NMWA has brought together masterworks from major museums, churches, and private collections in Europe and the United States, including the Vatican Museums, the Musée du Louvre, the Galleria degli Uffizi, and the Palazzo Pitti. Many are being exhibited for the first time in the United States.

In a unique partnership, Catholic University is developing auxiliary programming for the exhibition that draws on the scholarship of University faculty from several disciplines. The University will cohort with NMWA’s graduate student conference on March 20 and 21, with sessions at the museum and on campus. The keynote speaker will be Miri Rubin, author of Mater et Filia: A History of the Virgin Mary, and professor of medieval and early modern history and head of the School of History, Queen Mary, University of London.

In addition, the School of Theology and Religious Studies will present a series of lectures in the spring semester exploring themes of the exhibit. The Department of Drama will adapt and present several short pieces about the Virgin Mary from the late medieval Corpus Christi Plays, a Middle English cycle of 48 mystery pageants that cover sacred history from creation to the Day of Judgment. Art history juniors and seniors will be working together under the guidance of a professor and two curators of prints and drawings to co-curate an online exhibition combining Old Master and modern Marian works of art, including engravings by Albrecht Dürer, etchings by Rembrandt van Rijn, watercolors by William Blake, and woodcuts by Kirke Kellett. Students in the University Honors Program will research key works in the exhibit as part of a new interdisciplinary course on Mary.

“This exhibit brings together a beautiful collection of art depicting the single most honored woman of all time,” says Nora Heimann, chair of CUA’s Department of Art and associate professor of art history. “The University’s partnership is such a natural fit. Students and faculty from across our campus — theologians, art historians, actors and playwrights, musicologists, historians, and scholars of literature — are all excited to explore the enduring relevance of Mary’s inspiration, while at the same time seeking to enhance understanding of the historic works in this show. We are eager to approach this venerable subject, which spans two millennia, in a very new and fresh way.”

The exhibit is divided into six thematic sections: daughter, cousin, and wife; mother of an infant; bereaved parent; protagonist in a life story honored through the centuries; link between heaven and earth; and active participant in lives of those who revered her.

Offering insight into the manner in which both female and male artists conceptualized their images of Mary, the exhibit features the work of four women artists: Sofonisba Anguissola, Artemisia Gentileschi, Osabe Maldalen Cazucia, and Elisabetta Steani. In addition, the exhibit features the work of well-known Renaissance and Baroque artists, including Botticelli, Dürer, Michelangelo, Titian, and Caravaggio.

Picturing Mary will be on view at NMWA from Dec. 5, 2014, to April 12, 2015. The museum is located at 1250 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. For more information, visit nmwa.org.

Board Reappoints Garvey

Catholic University’s Board of Trustees met on Sept. 23 to consider renewing the appointment of President John Garvey. He was first appointed in June 2010 to serve a five-year term. A Presidential Assessment Committee, composed of five trustees and two deans, considered several types of input, including surveys and personal interviews with various University constituencies, in preparing its report to the full board. The committee unanimously recommended that Garvey be reappointed and the board strongly concurred. Garvey’s evaluation was based on four key areas: Catholic identity and mission, academic excellence, holistic student development, and financial stability.

Catholic University launched a new campaign this fall focused on building community. Titled “Our CommUNITY, My Responsibility,” the campaign was the result of discussions between President John Garvey and students, faculty, and staff. Its goal is to increase cultural sensitivity and awareness on campus, while emphasizing the overriding importance of civility, kindness, compassion, and personal responsibility as guiding principles for interactions with one another.

The campaign kicked off at Orientation with the debut of an eight-minute video highlighting the core values that form the foundation of the CUA community. In the video, students, faculty, and staff explain how CUA is a community that learns, believes, cares, and respects.

“The students are here above all else to learn. Learning can occur in all kinds of forms in different locations — in the classroom, through activities. Everything that we run and everything we put together for students is designed for some desired learning outcome,” says Vice President for Student Affairs Mike Allen in the video.

The campaign will continue throughout the academic year with programs and events. For more information, a listing of events, and to view the video, visit community.cua.edu.
36 Years @ CUA

Carol Glass
Professor of Clinical Psychology and Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Psychology

On Why She Stayed at CUA
I found what I was looking for here. Teaching, researching, and mentoring Ph.D. students and undergraduates — it makes my job interesting and never boring, never the same. We like to joke we have the best psychology department on the planet, but it’s true! I have the best colleagues. They’re wonderful teachers and top researchers — nationally known in their fields. And even across different subfields, faculty members in the department collaborate with and support one another.

Favorite Part of Her Job
My favorite part of my job is that there is no one favorite thing. I appreciate the mix of being able to do lots of things. I love running into former undergraduate students at conferences or getting emails and hearing about their success. I enjoy seeing how I’ve played a part in helping them figure out what to do with their lives.

And our Ph.D. program is special because it isn’t embedded in a large state school (like many are). We are able to get to know our students individually and work closely with them.

Changes Witnessed
The change that has impacted my day-to-day life the most is technology. We used to have to carry around huge boxes of punch cards that stored our data. In the early 1980s I received a grant to do research, and I bought an Apple II+. It had 64 kilobytes of memory. We paid extra for another 16 kilobytes to have the ability to type in upper and lowercase letters!

My office. I’ve held so many research meetings here and collaborated with so many people. Plus, I have an amazing view of Washington from up here in O’Boyle. I can even see the Washington Monument and the Library of Congress. — M.M.H

The Year of the Basselin
Theological College (TC) and the School of Philosophy are celebrating a century of a one-of-a-kind scholarship program. Through the Basselin program, TC hosts some of the best and brightest seminary students in the country. Basselin fellows live at TC, the national seminary of The Catholic University of America, where they receive their seminary formation from Sulpician priests while completing an academically rigorous program in philosophy at the University.

The program, named after Theodore Basselin, who funded the scholarships more than 100 years ago, provides three years of education, room, and board for men planning to enter the priesthood. Seminarians are admitted in their junior year of undergraduate study to complete bachelor’s and master’s degrees in philosophy. The curriculum is designed to provide a foundation in philosophy that best prepares seminarians for the study of theology and also gives special attention to public speaking.

Basselin, an American industrialist, offered his endowment with the goal of educating and forming the finest candidates seeking to attend a Catholic seminary.

The Year of the Basselin commenced with a Mass of Remembrance on April 22, 2014, marking the 100th anniversary of Basselin’s death in April 1914. During TC’s Alumni Days on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, the Baselin celebration was an important focus. A symposium titled “What is Philosophy and Why is it Important in Seminary Formation” featured two of the Baselin alumni best known to the CUA community: Monsignor Robert Sokolowski (Class of 1957), Elizabeth Breckenridge Caldwell Professor of Philosophy, and Monsignor John Wippel (Class of 1956), Theodore Basselin Professor of Philosophy. The two professors have been faculty members in the School of Philosophy since 1963.

Other notable Baselin alumni include Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington and chancellor of Catholic University; Cardinal Raymond Burke, former prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and former archbishop of St. Louis; Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston; scripture scholar Rev. Raymond E. Brown; and Rev. Robert Barron, founder of the Word on Fire Ministries.

In conjunction with Alumni Days, TC released Basselins of Theological College: Memoirs. The book documents the history of the Baselin program with photos dating back to the first class of Baselins in 1923 and personal reflections of Baselin alumni from as early as the Class of 1942 through the present. The 70-page book is available through TC for a modest donation. For more information, visit theologicalcollege.org.

Hartke Theatre
Hartke Theatre Gets a Facelift
Members of the University and Washington, D.C., area communities are enjoying a more comfortable theatre experience this semester at Hartke Theatre, thanks to renovations and updates recently completed at the building.

The renovation project, which was organized by the University Office of Facilities Operations over the summer, included purchase and installation of new carpeting in the theatre and lobby; refurbishment seating in the theatre, including the addition of new cushions; repainting of theatre walls and ceilings as well as lobby doors and frames; and installation of a new area rug and wall fabric for the second-floor lobby space.

According to Jerry Conrad, M.Arch. 1998, associate vice president for facilities operations, the work was done in conjunction with necessary roof repairs to Hartke resulting from the earthquake that shook the D.C. area in August 2011.

“Since the Hartke Theatre was completed in 1970, the playhouse has enjoyed a wonderful history, and the renovations will ensure that future performances will add to that legacy,” said Patrick Tuite, chair of the drama department.
Survivors’ Advocate

Eileen A. Dombo, Social Work

Eileen A. Dombo, M.S.W. 1996, Ph.D. 2005, assistant professor, assistant dean, and chair of the undergraduate social work program at the Catholic National School of Social Service (NCSSS), has devoted much of her career to trauma treatment and services to sexual abuse survivors. The former clinical director of the DC Rape Crisis Center, she was appointed victim assistance coordinator for the Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA, in May 2014. Dombo has done significant research in the area of vicarious trauma.

Q: You are both an alumna and faculty member of NCSSS. What’s special about the school?
A: There is such a warm and welcoming environment here. I felt as a student that I was also respected as a professional. And now, as a faculty member, I learn so much from my students, it’s energizing. I always felt at home here from the minute I started the M.S.W. program.

Q: Why is the study of vicarious trauma so important to you?
A: My desire in becoming a clinical social worker has always been to help people heal from traumatic experiences. At the rape crisis center, I was on the front line, answering calls on the hotline, visiting survivors in the hospital, and then doing the ongoing counseling one-on-one and in support groups. I thought I could handle it, but it stuck with me. We are human beings working with other human beings who have been through awful experiences. How could it not affect us? I started thinking there’s got to be some way we can better support one another in this profession and others like nursing and medicine. Then I became clinical director at the rape crisis center and I had staff asking me, ‘How do I deal with this?’

I started to look into the literature on vicarious trauma, and became involved in research and training and education for social workers and other medical professionals, looking at how to remain resilient and engaged in the work and not get burned out. It’s a great privilege to engage with people who trust you to help them through difficult times. So while we see vicarious trauma, we also see vicarious resilience. I have been so motivated and so moved and transformed by the strength of those I am helping. That’s what keeps me going.

Yes, it’s hard and it’s wonderful.

Q: What are some of the strategies to help health professionals deal with vicarious trauma?
A: The core message is be aware of the way work is affecting you. To find a balance by having a life outside of work. Stay connected to others. Use social support systems. When we create daily concrete tasks for self care, we have less burnout. If we wait until we have time and money for a vacation, it’s too late. Mindfulness — or meditation — is also very effective in helping clinicians let go of some of the difficult things they are holding on to.

Q: Can you share the most important goal in working with trauma survivors?
A: Helping them integrate their experiences into their lives. As much as I would love to, I can’t make the experience go away. So many clients haven’t found a way to integrate a past traumatic experience into their lives. So that one memory or the avoidance of that memory doesn’t have to define you. — E.N.W.
Barnes & Noble at Monroe Street Market Opens

A large crowd gathered for the July opening of one of the anchor stores of Monroe Street Market — Barnes & Noble at The Catholic University of America. Judging from the buzz generated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the new, larger bookstore is exciting not only for faculty, staff, and students at CUA, but also for neighbors in the community.

The bookstore at 625 Monroe St., N.E., is the newest addition to Monroe Street Market. It features Catholic University spirit-wear and textbooks, along with a large selection of fiction, nonfiction, reference, and children’s books. A café is also included in the space.

Kyla Lyons, B.A. 1989, M.A. 1995, executive director of alumni relations, was on hand for the event and noted, “All the changes on Monroe Street Market are providing a great reason for alumni to come back to campus and see what’s new.”

Web Extra: To see a photo gallery of the opening, visit cuamagazine.cua.edu.

Architecture Alumni Design Two Unique Urban D.C. Projects

A couple of blocks south of Catholic University, near Monroe Street Market, sits a new apartment building constructed from a surprising material: 18 steel sea shipping containers. The project is the work of three CUA alumni — Kelly Davies, B.S.Arch 2007, M.Arch 2009; Matthew Grace, B.A. 2015; and Sean Joiner, B.A. 2005 — and one CUA faculty member, Travis Price, lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning.

Grace and Joiner, who work in a financial planning firm but invest in real estate on the side, bought the house on the site but had to tear it down due to problems with the foundation. Grace and Joiner turned to Davies, Grace’s wife, and her boss, Price, for advice on what to build in its place. Davies and Price came up with the idea of the shipping containers apartment.

The building, which Grace and Joiner plan to rent out to CUA students, drew media attention from The Washington Post as well as national and local radio and TV news stations when construction began over the summer.

Two other architecture alumni were recently in the news for designing a new park dedicated to Chuck Brown, a Washington, D.C., music legend known as the “Godfather of Go-Go.”


The park features a circular plaza with outdoor recreation space, interactive toy drums and chimes for children, a discography engraved on aluminum panels, a timeline of Brown’s life and career, and a custom photo mosaic tile wall showcasing Brown’s performances.

A Hands-On Experience with Medieval History

Though she has studied history for years, Catholic University graduate student Abigail Petritsch had never encountered the landscapes of the medieval world in real life. That changed in May, when she participated in an archeology field school and study trip to northern England. After seven days spent digging for archeological treasures at a medieval castle, she and nine classmates visited ancient abbeys, cathedrals, and priories to learn about the origins of Christianity in England.

“I was amazed to stand there between ruins and try to transport yourself back in time, to be able to see the actual things we’ve been talking about. It makes a world of difference.”

The trip, which was co-sponsored by CUA/Abroad and the Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies (MBS), was a three-credit course taught by Lilla Kopár, professor of English and director of MBS, and Jennifer Davis, professor of history and MBS associate director. The group included 10 students in medieval and Byzantine studies, English, history, and anthropology.

During the excavation, the class worked alongside professional archeologists at Bamburgh Castle, a historic site dating back thousands of years in what was once the medieval kingdom of Northumbria. After receiving training in excavation strategies and processing skills, the students excavated in an area believed to have once housed craftsmen’s workshops. They found early medieval stya (coins), animal bones, fragments of pottery with ties to the Roman Empire, and floors and beam slots of buildings.

After the excavation, the group spent five days visiting locations around northern England, including the tidal island of Lindisfarne, Durham Cathedral, Hexham Abbey, and York. While traveling, students gave presentations on the sites and historical figures such as St. Cuthbert, the patron saint of northern England, and the Venerable Bede, a famous historian of the early medieval period.

The goal of the trip, Kopár said, was to give a rare, in-person look at medieval culture while introducing students to archeological techniques.

“As a historian, you study various interpretations of material culture, so it’s very interesting to go back to the sources and the beginning of the process, to get on your knees with a trowel and start digging,” she said.

Prior to the trip, students attended a full-day seminar on medieval Northumbria and read an extensive list of primary and secondary sources and archeological reports. After returning home, they were required to conduct independent research and submit research papers.

Among the students was Michael Strickland, a graduate student in the English department who specializes in early medieval English literature. His favorite part of the trip was working on the excavation with the Bamburgh research team of archeologists, who he said were patient and supportive.

“I’d never appreciated all the work that goes into excavation, but it was satisfying to slowly uncover the past,” he said. “The trip offered insight into the life of the people whom I normally can learn about only in text.” — K.B.
Ask the Experts

Savoring Rome

- **Adjust to the Roman pace.** After the first hectic tourist round of the “sights,” take some time to get in sync with the Roman way of life. Participate in a quiet, early-morning Mass. Have breakfast at the local bar, standing at the counter with the locals. After lunch sit in a park and enjoy the Roman air. At the end of the day, around 7 p.m., stop in at a local enoteca (wine bar) for a glass of prosecco (sparkling white wine) before dinner.

- **Eat local, high-quality foods.** Find out what the local, seasonal specialties are and seek them out. Simple meals can be constructed from salami, cheese, fresh bread, and fruit. Forget your American preferences and jump into the local gastronomical landscape. Rather than a big grocery store, find a local alimentari (deli) to make your selections.

- **Make your dinners an Italian experience.** The point of meals in Italy is to combine good food and good wine with good conversation. The evening meal is always the last thing of the day, after all work is done, starting around 8:30 or 9 p.m. Four courses allow the best opportunity for a delightful evening: antipasto to start, followed by pasta, then the meat or fish, and a small dessert. The coffee arrives after dessert. And don’t worry, the waiter will give you ample time between courses to enjoy one another’s company and will not dream of bringing the bill right away after your last sip.

- **Explore the rich heritage of Rome.** Most places in the center of Rome are steeped in history. For example, the National Roman Museum has four sites on a single, three-day ticket. This can be an excellent, inexpensive way to put yourself in touch with the majesty of ancient Rome. Detailed visits to each site are best combined with spending time sitting in a park or café reading a history of Rome and a text like Livy’s *Early History of Rome*.

- **Leave no door unopened.** Rome has many hidden treasures. Walk everywhere, taking different routes and exploring small streets. Never pass an empty church or courtyard. Behind every door is a potential treasure. All churches are different, with examples of art and architecture from all ages. Talk to the custodians where you visit; they will often be delighted and show you things that are not usually accessible.

— David Dawson Vasquez, Catholic University Rome Center Director (Vasquez is featured in the article “A Semester in the Eternal City” on pages 22–25.)

Father O’Connell Hall Dedication

Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M., the 14th University President, was back on campus Oct. 17 for the dedication of the newly renovated Father O’Connell Hall (formerly known as Graduate Hall, Cardinal Hall, and later University Center). The renovation of the LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) hall preserves the grandeur and heritage of the building, while incorporating modern design, materials, and technology. Limestone, marble, bronze, glass, and sound work in the renovation reflect the surrounding architectural history of the University. A huge crowd of alumni, students, faculty, and staff turned out to give the bishop of Trenton a warm welcome on the first day of Cardinal Weekend. Prefacing himself honed by the naming of the building, Bishop O’Connell said that in honoring him, “you are really honoring those with whom I served here.” On Oct. 2, Bishop O’Connell was also honored at the official opening of Monroe Street Market, a new mixed-use community along the southern edge of campus, where a plaza was named for him. He was instrumental in initiating the development of the new community and the renovation of O’Connell Hall.

Below: Bishop O’Connell blesses Heritage Hall (remembered by many alumni as their dining hall). With him are Most Rev. Barry Knestout, auxiliary bishop of Washington; Rev. Mr. Jason Parzynski, Bishop O’Connell’s secretary, and CUA President John Garvey. Visit cuamagazine.cua.edu to view a photo gallery of the dedication.