Mildred Reynolds

In a prolific career as a clinical social worker and educator that spanned more than five decades, Mildred Reynolds, M.S.W. 1969, no doubt touched hundreds of lives. But she says it was her decision in the 1990s to reveal her personal struggle with depression that allowed her to reach countless numbers of people in need of a lifeline.

Reynolds grew up on a small farm in Indiana. In 1952 she graduated from Indiana Central College (now the University of Indianapolis), and began work as a first-grade teacher. After observing a school social worker, she decided that’s what she wanted to do.

From the mid-1960s her husband, who was an Army officer, was transferred to Washington, D.C., where Reynolds learned about Catholic University's National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS). “I went for the interview and they were so gracious, so welcoming. I was even awarded a scholarship.”

Reynolds says she received a “good solid education” at NCSSS with clinical practice in a psychiatric hospital and clinic and the opportunity to conduct and publish research.

From 1970 to 1980, Reynolds worked at George Washington University's School of Medicine, first as a psychiatric social worker and later as the director of social work for the Department of Psychiatry. She earned her doctorate there in 1978. In the 1980s she earned a master’s degree in theological studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and spent the next 20 years as a director at Washington Pastoral Counseling Services.

Despite her success in a career dedicated to helping others (she was elected a “Distinguished Practitioner in Social Work” by the National Academies of Practice), Reynolds says she was plagued by depression. “I had this wonderful life—a good husband, home, education, and work. I concluded I must be a weak person,” she recalls. When finally, in the early 1990s, she was diagnosed with and treated for clinical depression, Reynolds says she felt relief.

She began sharing her story and message that “with help there is hope.” In 1995, at age 64, Reynolds agreed to be profiled in a feature story on depression in Parade magazine. “The reaction was amazing. People from around the country called and wrote to me.” She went on to share her story at more than 70 presentations in the United States and internationally at several conferences of the World Federation of Mental Health.

Reynold retired in 1999 and has since established endowed scholarships at her alma mater, including the graduate program in social work at NCSSS. “It is my way of giving back to a school and a profession that has given so much to me.” — E.N.W.
She is a Federal Aviation Administration—law with more than 26 years of experience.航空法律，她在其中领导了该公司的新可持续发展团队。

Jeffrey S. Rubin, B.Arch. 1980 (ARCH), owner of Baltimore Handymen Company, was recognized as best handyman in the 2014 Best of Baltimore feature in the August issue of Baltimore Magazine.

1981

Lisa Belliveau, B.M. 1981 (MUSIC), is completing a certification program offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to become a teacher of the visually impaired. She has been employed since March as a teacher of the visually impaired at Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind in Washington, D.C.

1982

Chris Knisler, M.A. 1982 (A&S), of Cream Ridge, N.J., was appointed communications specialist for the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority, which issues tax-exempt, low-interest bonds for hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, blood banks, and visiting nurse associations to acquire hospitals, build facilities, and purchase equipment.

Thomas M. Letizia, B.A. 1982 (A&S), was elected to the board of directors of the Land Bank of Central Pennsylvania. He has served for 27 years in various senior and administrative roles.

1984

Brian R. Corbin, B.A. 1984 (PHIL), accepted the position of senior vice president of national development for Catholic Charities USA in Washington, D.C., in August. Previously, he served for 27 years in various senior and executive leadership roles for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown. He also served as the chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops National Advisory Council and as secretary of the Catholic Charities USA Board of Directors. In 2013, he became a knight of the Papal Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

1985

Bernie DeLeo, B.F.A. 1983 (A&S), of Falls Church, Va., received the Grassroots Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington D.C., for certifying pilots, holding commercial and certified flight instructor, instrument airplane, and glider certificates.

Thomas L. Gallagher, B.A. 1985 (A&S), J.D. 1989 (LAW), received the Graymoor Community Service Award for his efforts on behalf of many Catholic charities and organizations. He was honored at the 21st annual Sharing Hope Dinner in New York City in October with several other Catholics who have committed their talents and resources toward helping humanity. Gallagher is executive chairman of a New York City-based social media brand company. For more than two years he worked full time on a pro bono basis for the Missionaries of Charity and the Office of the Postulation for the Cause of Sainthood of Blessed Mother Teresa. He helped create and administer Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center, Inc., a New York not-for-profit organization.

1986

Daniel T. Draneufield, B.S. 1986 (A&S), of Hinsdale, Mass., was appointed vice president and head of translational medicine for Tokai Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel therapies for prostate cancer and other hormonally driven diseases.

1988

Gordon Young, B.A. 1988 (A&S), of San Francisco, was honored for his book To信贷or: Memoir of a Vanishing City. It was named a Michigan Notable Book for 2014 and nominated for a Northern California Book Award for creative nonfiction. Young was featured in the fall 2013 issue of the magazine, page 38.

1989


1992

Gerta Dowling Flaherty, B.A. 1992 (A&S), is a physician who has been with the Ford Primary Care Network in Rome, Ga., for the past year. She is a graduate of the Ford Family Medicine Residency program and is board certified in family medicine. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and the American Osteopathic Association.

1996

James M. Arentz, B.M.E. 1996 (ENG), of Reading, Pa., technical director with Penske Racing Shocks, partnered with Trek Bicycle to redefine mountain bike suspension. The suspension design uses regressive damping, a technology proven in auto racing.

2000

Robert M. Aghello, M.F.A. 2000 (A&S), of Bowie, Md., performed May 18 with the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, D.C., (GMCW) to a sold-out house at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with Tony Award winner Laura Benanti. Aghello is the baritone section leader and has been performing with GMCW since 2002 during its regular seasons as well as special events at the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and the televised official 2013 presidential inauguration concert at the Lincoln Memorial. He also performed with GMCW at two televised Kennedy Center Honors programs and has sung the national anthem at many professional sporting events.

2001

In the late 1970s, Michael Kurtz, B.A. 1972, was a doctoral student in history at Georgetown University looking for a dissertation topic. He also was working full time at the National Archives. A colleague there pointed him toward a specific topic that is now familiar to many people—the Monuments Men.

Thanks to the move of the same title that started earlier this year, millions now know the story of the World War II-era civilians and military members of the Monuments Men, focused on saving cultural artifacts from war damage and to return the ones lost at the hands of the Nazis.

Kurtz, who retired from the National Archives in 2011, was astounded by what he learned as he delved into the topic. “I picked the Monuments Men as my dissertation topic and it has held my interest ever since,” he says. “My dissertation was originally published in 1985. In the 1990s, the collapse of Communism prompted the opening up of previously closed archives and the whole topic of cultural restitution and looting came back to the forefront. I then decided to update my research in the form of a book.”

America and the Return of Nazi Art Treasures: The Recovery of Europe’s Cultural Treasures was published by Cambridge University Press in 2009. His original dissertation and the book served as source material for future books on the topic, including the one on which the movie was based.

In his research, Kurtz was struck in learn that looting was an integral part of the Holocaust. “For the Nazis, confiscation of property was part of the move toward the Final Solution,” he explains. “One of the ways to dehumanize people is to take their property.”

Although Kurtz’s research has focused on the events of World War II, the Monuments Men story has implications today.

“We saw looting of Baghdad museums during the Iraq invasion,” he says. “There’s a need for protection of historical sites in current war zones. Cultural restitution is and always will be a very contemporary issue.”

Kurtz is now the director of the archives, records, and information management specialization in the Master of Library Science program at the University of Maryland’s College of Information Studies. He’s currently working on a history of the Department of Patient Counseling at the Medical College of Virginia, but plans to return to researching the Monuments Men.

“I’m going to explore what further elements of the story might be helpful to bring to people’s attention. The Monuments Men has been the most intriguing topic of my career. The education I received at Catholic University gave me a solid foundation in the subject of history. That foundation ultimately led me to this topic, in which I’ve found much personal and professional happiness.” — L.C.

Afton P. Martin (2014) of the Academy for Jewish Research. In 2013, he was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research. In 2013, he became a grandfather.


Michael K. Metcalf, Ph.D. 1997 (AKS), is a professor in the College of Strategic Intelligence of the National Intelligence University in Washington, D.C. He published a monograph on the foundations of China’s military modernization titled Imperialism With Chinese Characteristics?: Reading And Re-Reading China’s 2006 Defense White Paper (Government Printing Office, July 2012). Mary Ann Buddenholzer Miller, Ph.D. 2000 (AKS), professor of English at Caldwell University in New Jersey, collected and edited Stories From the B-List: Contemporary Poems Inspired by the Saints (Ave Maria Press, 2014). The book contains more than 100 poems by 70 poets from across the United States. The speakers in the poems are not the saints themselves, but contemporary voices who happen to think of a saint in the midst of a wide variety of hardships.

Nicholas Denysenko, Ph.D. 2008 (THEO), assistant professor of theological studies and director, Huffman Ecumenical Institute at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, has written Chromatics: A Primer for Catholics (Pueblo Books, May 2014) and The Blessing of Waters and Epiphany: The Eastern Liturgical Tradition (Liturgy, Worship and Society Series) (Augsburg, August 2012).

In Memoriam

Helen M. Debinski, M.S.W. 1941, of Bel Air, Md., April 30, 2014.


Rosemary Murphy, who attended the University from 1945 to 1946, New York City, July 5, 2014.


Mary Ann Hopkins, B.M. 1959, of Wheeling, W.Va., April 15, 2014.


Honorable Fred L. Buckin, J.D. 1975, of Tallahassee, Fla., Sept. 6, 2014.


Faculty/Staff


Karen Goodwin, lecturer and advisory board member, School of Business and Economics, from 2011 to 2013, of Annapolis, Md., June 30, 2014.

George N. Kowabany, faculty member, Department of Chemistry, from 1953 to 1986, of Jacksonville, Fla., July 2, 2014.


Call for Alumni Governor Nominations

The Board of Governors of the CUA Alumni Association provides leadership for the association, regional chapters, and activities that serve the mission of CUA. Board members attend semi-annual board meetings, serve on committees, and support the annual fundraising goals of the University. They serve four-year terms, beginning with the October 2015 meeting during Cardinal Weekend 2015.

Interested in serving as a governor, or know an alum you would like to nominate? A committee of the Board of Governors will be reviewing nominations. Send an email to cua-alum@cu.edu, or visit cuatoday.com and click on the “Get Involved” tab. Nominations must be received by Dec. 31.