Novelist Mary Higgins Clark Addresses Graduates

What’s Next ...

Thomas Carani
Degree: Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies (minor: philosophy)
Job: Catechetical apprentice serving the Diocese of Galveston-Houston with the Echo program at the University of Notre Dame

“I served Catholic University for two years as a student minister, and I discovered that I loved living in an intentional Christian community while helping others encounter Jesus Christ and His Church.”

Taylor Dodds
Degree: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Spanish For Health Care Certification
Job: Neurosurgical registered nurse at New York University Langone Medical Center

“I am thrilled to begin my career as a registered nurse; to finally be able to take responsibility for the care of others, to finally feel that the four years of hard work and training here at CUA were worth the benefits that others will reap.”

Nicki Elledge
Degree: Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre (minor, theology)
Job: Utah Shakespeare Festival, Acting Company

“I am so honored to be working with Utah Shakespeare Festival. We have already begun rehearsals and the process has been amazing!”

Audra Nakas
Degree: Bachelor of Arts (majors: psychology, politics; minors: philosophy, theology)
She also accepted the Via Sapientiae fellowship with Ethika Politika, an online Catholic journal.

“I’m excited to apply what I’ve learned in my coursework and to improve my quantitative skills, which will prepare me for graduate school in psychology or a related field.”

Tori Neill
Degree: Bachelor of Science (major: international business, minor: Spanish)
Job: Institutional Clients Group operations analyst at Citigroup

“I am very excited to live and work in Manhattan and challenge myself in the field of finance.”

Kramer Ortman
Degree: Juris Doctor, Securities Law Certificate
Job: Attorney, Iron

“It is not easy to find an in-house attorney position directly out of law school. When this opportunity came around, I knew I had to jump at the chance to realize my goal.”

Daniel Pierson
Degree: Ph.D. in philosophy
Job: Assistant professor of philosophy, Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

“Having a degree from CUA was an asset to me in the job market. The degree is well respected, and CUA philosophy has an extensive network of graduates and associates at colleges and universities around the country.”

Angeline Limy Premraj
Degree: Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering
Job: Patent examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

“I look forward to learning about the new technologies in the field of medical devices and gaining the knowledge and experience that will someday help me become a patent attorney.”

Julianne Keller Reilly
Degree: Master of Social Work. (She received a bachelor’s in music education from CUA in 2009.)
Job: Student support specialist at St. Louis Catholic School in Alexandria, Va.

“For the past six years I have worked as a music teacher at St. Louis. I completed my M.S.W. while teaching. I am very excited to continue at the same wonderful school in a social work capacity.”

Web Extra: To view a photo gallery and read more about the 126th Commencement, visit cuamagazine.cua.edu.
On His Long-term Career at CUA

I’ve been able to do a lot of different things over the last 41 years. I served as provost for 10 years and wrote or edited eight books on Catholic education. I’ve participated in strategic planning for Catholic schools in 20 dioceses, served on the Bishops’ Committee on Catholic Education twice, and served as the Middle States [higher education accrediting body] commissioner. I’ve also been able to travel a lot as part of my work. I have enjoyed my work here and the opportunity to work with wonderful colleagues. What will make me stop working is if my student evaluations start to drop.

On Coming to CUA

After earning my doctorate in research and evaluation in education, I had 10 interviews lined up. Catholic University was one of the first schools I interviewed with, and I ended up only going to four interviews. The decision was easy to make. The job at CUA was to teach exactly what I taught in graduate school, and it was at a Catholic school aligned with my personal values. It was a perfect blend of mission identity and using my particular skills.

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The job market is tougher these days, but if someone has a goal of getting their Ph.D., then I think higher education is where they’ll be most happy. — M.M.H.

Rewards of a Career in Higher Ed

I enjoy working in higher education because I get to work with students. I love to teach. I’ve directed 58 dissertations and served on 140 dissertation committees. If I didn’t get to work with students, the rest of my work wouldn’t be as meaningful.

Most Memorable Time at CUA

I didn’t apply to be provost. In fact, I probably wouldn’t have applied. When [then President] Brother Patrick [Ellis, F.S.C.] called me and asked me to be provost, I said to my wife, “Do you know what this means?” I understood the stature of the University and what being provost would mean. To be provost at this University is quite an honor. That was a career-changing appointment that opened up other new opportunities and I am very grateful for that. Being provost gives you a better appreciation of the University.

Favorite Place on Campus

Even though it’s not technically on campus, the Basilica [of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception] is my favorite place. I enjoy being there for Convocation, Baccalaureate Mass, and the Mass of the Holy Spirit. If I could choose a second place, I loved working in McMahon Hall because of the age and symbolism of the building.

Greatest Changes Witnessed

For the first 25 years I worked here, I only taught graduate courses. Then, as I served as provost, I didn’t teach at all. When I returned to teaching, I began teaching undergraduates in the University Honors Program and in the Department of Education. Another big change is the great increase in tuition. When I first came here, classes were $70 a credit.

Advice for Those Earning Doctorates

The job market is tougher these days, but if someone has a goal of getting their Ph.D., then I think higher education is where they’ll be most happy. — M.M.H.

Before Removal of Trailers, Architecture Course Reconsiders Waste

For many years, Brad Guy, assistant professor of architecture and planning, has taught a course on how waste can be reconsidered as a resource in architecture. So when Guy learned in summer 2014 that the 26 manufactured houses that made up the Curley Court residences for the last decade were going to be removed in spring 2015, he contacted staff from the Office of Facilities Operations to arrange for his students to work in several of the buildings before they were hauled away. He wanted them to engage in deconstructing the trailers so they could carefully consider the materials used to build them.

Being able to take apart a building on campus was the “largest deciding factor” in choosing the architecture elective, said Lillian Heryak, a Master of Architecture student from Cleveland. “When I heard the course would involve deconstructing the trailers, I was excited to have the opportunity to learn in an environment outside of the traditional lecture or studio-based classroom setting,” she said.

The purpose of the spring course was to help students understand construction waste and how to minimize it. Students not only learned how to reuse waste they were able to reclaim, but also saw how important it can be to thoughtfully consider materials when designing and constructing buildings that may, in the future, need to be deconstructed.

The students recovered as much of the building materials as possible for reuse from one unit. From these materials, they built an exhibit, which will be used to promote the School of Architecture and Planning’s programs at the U.S. Green Building Council’s Greenbuild International Conference to be held in Washington, D.C., in November 2015.

Guy and his students also facilitated the donation of more than seven tons of furniture and appliances to Community Forklift as well as held up to a local organization that provides shelter for veterans who are homeless. Community Forklift is an organization in nearby Edmonton, Md., that collects building materials to keep them out of landfills and, instead, resells them at low cost to the public.

The trailers were hauled away at a rate of about two a day beginning the second week of March. The Curley Court site has been restored to its original condition as a gently sloping lawn.

Web Extra: To read more about the process of removing the trailers and to view a photo gallery, visit cuamagazine.cua.edu.

CUA Honored with Catholic Press Awards

In June, Catholic University received eight awards from the Catholic Press Association (CPA).

The Catholic University of America Magazine was awarded second place for general excellence in the category of professional and special interest magazines. Two alumni essays written for the magazine were awarded honorable mentions in the best essay category: “Lessons Learned: Unplugged with Chris” (Summer 2014) by Kathryn Jean Lopez, B.A. 1997, and “Changed by Natali: Tantrums and Giggles” (Fall 2014) by Joanna Gardner, B.A. 2013.

University Photographer Ed Pfueller received two awards for online photo galleries: “Best Photos of 2014” (first place) and “Easter Vigil at CUA” (second place).

The University’s website and magazine coverage of the Picturing Mary exhibit and associated programming received an honorable mention award in the category of best Web and print combination packages.

Two books published by The Catholic University of America Press also received awards. A second place award in the category of marriage went to A Carthaginian for Business: Tough Ethical Questions & Insights from Catholic Social Teaching by Andrew Abela, CUA provost, and Joseph E. Capizzi, associate professor of moral theology/ethics in CUA’s School of Theology and Religious Studies.

The awards were announced June 26 at the conclusion of the 2015 Catholic Media Conference held in Buffalo, N.Y. CPA represents more than 600 member organizations in the United States and Canada.
A six-course meal complete with white-gloved servers. No wonder the etiquette dinner is one of the most popular programs offered by the Office of Career Services. But beyond the one of the most popular programs offered by servers. No wonder the etiquette dinner is one of the most popular programs offered by students.dress in their way toward preparing undergraduates to enter the work world. Students dressed in their finest business attire and learn how to dine in professional settings such as lunch meetings, business dinners, and interviews over a meal.

The spring 2015 career fair was CUA’s largest ever.

New University Leaders Announced

In early June President John Garvey appointed Andrew V. Abela as the new University provost. Abela has been a member of the University’s faculty since 2002. In 2009, he was appointed chair of the Department of Business and Economics. In January 2013, shortly after the creation of the University’s School of Business and Economics, Abela was named as its first dean.

His scholarship in the areas of marketing effectiveness, marketing ethics, internal communication, and Catholic social doctrine has been widely published and cited. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, a Vatican organization entrusted with the promotion of the social doctrine of the Church.

Abela holds a B.S. from the University of Toronto, an M.B.A. from the Institute for Management Development in Switzerland, and a Ph.D. in marketing and ethics from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Toward the end of the spring semester, Garvey authorized the creation of an Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning. Diane M. Bunce, professor of chemistry and longtime student of the application of cognitive psychology to the teaching of chemistry, was appointed the University’s first vice provost for teaching and learning.

“This new office will enable us to strengthen our teaching at all levels, and will contribute greatly to the education of our students, both graduate and undergraduate,” said Garvey.

Following searches in the spring semester, two new vice presidents were hired and joined

relations programs of 10 university divisions, generating between $100 million and $150 million in gifts and commitments annually. Before joining JHU in 2002, Rembold worked at The George Washington University, where he was director of development in the graduate school of education and human development and director of development for annual giving programs.

CUA Board of Trustees News


Two other members concluded their terms of office: Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, S.T.B. 1970, of Brooklyn. They each served on the board for four years.


Web Extra Visit careers.cua.edu to read more about these staff members in senior leadership positions, and these Board of Trustees changes.
Stewart E. McHie, Business and Economics

Stewart E. McHie is the director of the Master of Science in Business Analysis (M.S.B.A.) program in the School of Business and Economics. He came to CUA in 2010 and was on the ground floor of developing the program that is designed to give nonbusiness majors a competitive edge in the job market. The program boasts a 90% employment rate for its students within three months of graduation. In addition to coursework, the program features an internship, one-on-one mentoring, networking opportunities, and work in field study teams. McHie, who also teaches marketing in the program, came to CUA after a long, successful career as a marketing executive.

Q: After 35 years at Exxon (later ExxonMobil), what are you most proud of?
A: When Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999 I was the global brand manager for the new fuels marketing company, which on its own would have been a Fortune 5 company. I had to put a new worldwide marketing organization together while being able to meld those two different cultures and workforces. Managing that successfully for 11 years was probably the highlight of my career.

Q: Why are mentoring and networking such key components of the M.S.B.A. program?
A: Curiosity. Today you have to be a lifelong learner. The pace of change in the world is so dramatic. Fifteen years ago, we didn't know about homeland security or cyber security, for instance. In 10 years, many of our students will have jobs that haven't been invented yet.

Q: What do you look for in an applicant, whether it be a student or an employee?
A: Curiosity. Today you have to be a lifelong learner. The pace of change in the world is so dramatic. Fifteen years ago, we didn't know about homeland security or cyber security, for instance. In 10 years, many of our students will have jobs that haven't been invented yet.

Q: The School of Business and Economics emphasizes serving people through business. Is that emphasis part of the allure that brought you from the corporate world to CUA?
A: Very much so. During my 35 years with Exxon, I learned why it is important to conduct business in an ethical way, to be conscious of safety and diversity, and to put an emphasis on training people and human dignity. Likewise, at CUA we teach business as an honorable profession. When done right, business serves the customer, the community, the employees, and the shareholders. It's exciting to teach those principles to the next generation of business leaders.

Q: So networking gets the interview. What gets the job?
A: Confidence — in your knowledge and ability, as well as in your professional presence. When students say they are confident they can compete for any job, then we have done our job in preparing them for the world. — E.N.W.

Music Students Shine in Sold-out Kennedy Center Concert

Catholic University students, alumni, and faculty performed in one of Washington's most notable venues April 12 during the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music's 50th Anniversary Gala Concert, a full orchestral and choral program held in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert opened with the premiere of a new orchestral fanfare, Ut Sol, Ut Luna, which was composed by senior Matthew Yost and performed by the full-length classical work, Carmina Burana, a scenic cantata by Carl Orff based on a series of 24 medieval poems reflecting on the shifting fortunes of life.

Prior to the concert, which was sold out, attendees enjoyed walking the historic halls of the Kennedy Center and watching the sun set from the back terrace. University President John Garvey addressed the audience and said the evening’s performance of Carmina Burana was tailor-made for life at a university because of its verses about spring, terrors, and romance — “what students think about in April,” he joked.

“We have taught music like this at The Catholic University of America since Herbert Hoover was president,” said Garvey. “For 50 years, we’ve had the preeminent school of music in the nation’s capital. We educate 300 students and give 200 performances each year.”

Following intermission, Grayson Wagstaff, dean of the music school, acknowledged current music school faculty and those who have passed away. He thanked all who helped organize the concert, including Professor Emerita Elaine Walter, who served as dean from 1982 to 2001.

“Tonight is about the future as much as it is about celebrating the past,” Wagstaff said. “I will declare that wherever this great world goes, we will need music like what you’re hearing tonight.”

The gala concert marked the first time in 15 years that the music school has held a performance in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The 50th anniversary celebration will continue this fall as the music school presents The Most Happy Fella on Oct. 23 and Sacred and Liturgical Music of the Baroque from the Bolivian Rainforest on Nov. 7. For a complete schedule of the remaining 50th anniversary events, visit music.cua.edu.
Picturing Mary Conference

Acclaimed medieval historian Miri Rubin provided the keynote address, titled “The Virgin Mary: Emotion and Legacy in Medieval Europe and Beyond,” during Catholic University’s Graduate Student Conference on the Blessed Mother. More than 140 students and scholars attended the conference that opened March 20 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA). The second day of programming continued at CUA. The conference was CUAs premier event in its partnership with NMWA on the landmark exhibit Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea.

The exhibit, which was held at NMWA from December to April, was one of the museum’s most successful ever, drawing a crowd of more than 25,000 visitors. It featured more than 60 paintings, sculptures, and textiles by some of the best-known Renaissance and Baroque artists.

26th Annual Cardinals Dinner

The 26th Annual Cardinals Dinner raised more than $1 million for Catholic University scholarships. The annual dinner, held April 24 in St. Louis, was preceded by Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. Most Rev. Robert Carlson, archbishop of St. Louis, and University President John Garvey cohosted the event that was attended by six American cardinals. Since its inauguration, the annual event has raised more than $30 million to support scholarships for CUA students.

Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish Scholars Celebrate Friendship

Representatives from three of the world’s major religions came together at Catholic University in May for a conference celebrating interreligious friendship and dialogue. They agreed that their continuing collaboration is essential for the good of mankind.

The conference Neore Aneste: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Catholic Church’s Dialogue with Jews and Muslims was planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vatican II’s declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions, which was a catalyst for the Catholic Church to reach out to other religions.

Monsignor Paul McPartlan, acting dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, said the conference was an occasion to celebrate Neore Aneste’s call for dialogue. “Understanding, peace, and collaboration between major faiths of the world is vital for the peace, happiness, and prosperity of humanity,” he said.

The conference was cosponsored by CUA and the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Three cardinals offered keynote addresses over the three days of the gathering. Other participants in the event included Muslim scholars and Jewish rabbis.

Workshop Helps Women See Their Salary Potential

The role-playing exercise was part of Salary Negotiation for Women, a workshop sponsored by the Office of Career Services and open to undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni. Marshall began leading the workshop to help women prepare to negotiate effectively. She also offers one-on-one sessions on the subject for both male and female students.

According to the American Association of University Women, women in the United States are paid 23% less than men on average. Though other factors are at play, Marshall believes part of the reason for the wage gap is that many women are afraid to ask for what they deserve. Studies show women ask for raises 85% less often than men and are four times less likely to negotiate their first salary out of college than men.

“I think women are afraid of coming off as too aggressive or too pushy,” Marshall said. “They’re afraid that if they get an offer and they ask if the salary is negotiable, the employer might rescind the offer. The attitude is, ‘If they offer me a job, I’m just going to accept it.’ Then they learn later on that someone is making more money and it makes them really unhappy.”

As part of her talk, Marshall advises students on how to learn their own worth by taking an inventory of their personal skills and researching salary ranges in their field using websites like LinkedIn and Glassdoor.

Marshall tells scholars to know in advance of job interviews what salary they would like, but to never lock themselves in by revealing the number to potential employers. If a potential employer asks what salary an interviewee is looking for, Marshall suggests turning the tables — asking what the salary range is for the position and then saying whether or not that range works for them.

In negotiations, Marshall advises students to be “polite, firm, but nice.” If a salary is fixed, employees can negotiate for things like benefits, relocation allowances, or opportunities for personal development. She also tells students to take time to think about any offers they might receive.

“Excited as you might be about an offer, under no circumstances do you ever accept on the spot,” she said. “It’s very hard to come back after you’ve accepted the offer as it stands and say, ‘Can we talk about that salary again?’”

Summerour said she first heard about the workshop after participating in a mock job interview in the career services office.

“This is something that isn’t often discussed within the classroom, so this professional help is excellent,” she said. “More women should know about these issues so they realize what’s going on.”

Ana Parson, who graduated in December with her M.S. in sustainable design, said the talk was very helpful in showing specific tips for negotiation. Parson worked a full-time job before coming back to school for her master’s, but said she never negotiated for her salary.

“I just accepted whatever offer came to me,” Parson said. “I think it’s good to open up your mind and see that you have some options. You don’t have to accept anything right away.”

— K.B.
Ask the Experts

Marie Baker is associate dean, M.S.W. program chair, director of the online M.S.W. program, and associate professor at CUA’s National Catholic School of Social Service. Her primary field of practice and research is in the areas of downsizing and job loss, occupational social work, and the influence of workplace issues on the individual and family.

Dealing with Job Loss

• Allow Yourself to Grieve: The loss of a job is a major life event. A person’s identity can be very closely associated with his or her job. It is very natural to feel grief at the loss of a job, and to in fact go through the stages of grief. When I work with people who have lost a job, I ask them to get in touch with a time in their lives when they experienced loss. And to recall that they were able to get through it, and may have even gained something positive from the experience.

• Don’t Isolate Yourself: While looking for a job can be a full-time occupation, it is not a good idea to sit home answering ad after ad. It is also not a good idea to keep job loss from family and friends, even in an effort to protect them from worry. Tell people and involve your family. Let them help and support you and offer ideas. Get out of the house and volunteer or look for an interim part-time position. In addition to keeping busy and feeling productive, this will get you in front of more people. And every new contact is a possible job lead.

• Focus on Your Accomplishments: More and more companies are downsizing and restructuring. A layoff is rarely about performance, but is about the bottom line, and it is more common than one might realize. Still, an involuntary separation from employment is a blow to one’s self-esteem. When I work with people who have lost their job, I ask them to make a list of their accomplishments. And that’s when I see their body language change, they stand a little straighter, they are more confident. That list will make for good talking points on future job interviews. But in the interim it will bolster self-esteem, which is so important in a job search.

• Form a Network: Everyone has contacts. Start making a list. Put it in the form of a grid as you start thinking about the people you know from all corners of your life: professional, social, volunteer, church, or neighborhood. Reach out to them and begin to involve them in your job search. Share with them your job/career objectives. Very often, these individuals become part of your networking system and are in the position to introduce you to other contacts who can contribute greatly to your job search.

• Think Positive: Your job loss can be an opportunity to reassess what brings you joy in life. And if you weren’t finding rewards in your previous job, this may be the push you needed to try something different, whether it be within your field or a complete career transition.

Amid the pride and joy, there was also gratitude at CUA’s Commencement ceremonies on May 16. The University conferred approximately 1,850 degrees during the ceremony held outdoors on the east steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Those steps will be the location for the outdoor Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on Sept. 23, during his historic visit to the United States. Look for full coverage of this special day in the fall issue of The Catholic University of America Magazine.