Though their formal education may now be complete, members of the Class of 2017 received one last piece of wisdom during this year’s Commencement ceremony. That advice came from Commencement speaker Peggy Noonan, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Wall Street Journal columnist, author, and former special assistant and speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan. “If you seek a happy and interesting life, one of meaning and accomplishment,” she said, “you must not stop reading books.”

Due to inclement weather, the ceremony was held inside the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Speaking before a large crowd of Catholic University graduates and their families, Noonan said she has been troubled to learn through her recent reporting how many young journalists and politicians have “received most of what they know about history through screens.” Noonan, who has written nine books on American politics, history, and culture, said that reading helped her determine her own political leanings, her ambition to become a writer, and even her religious identity as a Catholic. Without reading books, she said, she could never have succeeded as a presidential speechwriter or a journalist.

“[Reading] will change how your very mind works,” she advised graduates. “And in some magical way the deep thoughts of others give a spark to, and almost give permission to, thoughts of your own that had been lurking about but never had the courage to present themselves.”

University President John Garvey spoke about similar themes in his remarks, encouraging new graduates to continually pursue the virtue of studiousness. As they embark on new careers that could entail work deadlines, important phone calls, and long meetings, Garvey advised the new graduates to leave time for reflection, contemplation, and attention.

“Studiousness, he said, can allow new graduates to “devote our attention to the right things in the right way” rather than giving in to a constant barrage of information.

“Studiousness is the virtue of attention,” Garvey said. “It disposes us to want the truth, to seek it ardently, but also to wait attentively on it. When you practice studiousness in your daily life — when you read a book, look at a painting, talk to a friend — it prepares you to give your full attention to God.”

More than 1,600 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees were conferred during the ceremony. The Columbus School of Law conferred more than 125 degrees at its Commencement ceremony on May 26, with an address by Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, J.D. ’75, current senior international partner at the law firm WilmerHale.
Catholic University was honored with multiple awards recognizing magazine and web writing, advertising, design, and photography executed by the Office of Marketing and Communications. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), an international association of higher education institutions, named the University a silver award winner of its 2017 Circle of Excellence Awards program for senior graphic designer Kisin Rezvay's design of the Admit Pack, which is mailed to newly admitted students to welcome them to the University. The University was also honored with 11 awards from the Catholic Press Association (CPA), which represents more than 600 member organizations in the United States and Canada. The CPA awards included four writing awards in the category of Best Feature Article in an Alumni Magazine; a second place honor in the category of Best Alumni Magazine; a second place honor in the category of Best Magazine Cover for the Fall 2016 issue, which honored longtime athletic director Tray Murray. Overall, the magazine received an honorable mention in the category of Alumni Magazine of the Year. The University was also awarded prizes for photography, online written content, the 2017 annual report, and advertising copywriting.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Grad Programs Receive High U.S. News and World Report Rankings

The School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice program was ranked 26th among 186 accredited programs nationwide this May, while the Master of Nursing program was ranked 31st among approximately 292 programs. The school's graduate programs were ranked 82nd and 84th, respectively, in the nation.

**AWARDED THE 2017 CASE CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE**

The Department of Library and Information Science was ranked 32nd out of 51 schools with accredited programs. Department Chair Youngjoo Choi said the designation was a reflection of the University’s 100-year history of library and information science education and a sign that the program is “well received for its quality among peers.”

**N.Y. Philharmonic Clarinetist Gives Master Class**

Students at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music heard advice and tips of the trade from one of today’s most talented soloists, chamber, and orchestral musicians, as Anthony McGill, principal clarinetist for the New York Philharmonic, gave a master class for clarinetists this semester. McGill, who has received rave reviews for his performances around the world, offered hands-on guidance to four clarinet players during a spring semester master class, including Alexandra Chappell, a doctoral student, and Natalie Pacillo, a sophomore music major. Each musician performed a short piece for McGill and received a coaching session in front of the master class audience.

“Anthony’s advice was great. He was a great example of what a musician should strive to be,” McGill said. “And students learn because they can apply these things right away, in front of an audience.”

For her performance, Pacillo chose the first movement of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto. Afterwards, McGill gave her tips for improving her embouchure (the position of the lips, tongue, and teeth on the instrument) in order to better project her clarinet’s sound.

“That was very helpful advice,” Pacillo said, “and it was a great learning experience.”

A lot of a person’s musical style comes from the opportunities they’ve had and the teachers they have worked with,” she said. “It was amazing to have McGill give his viewpoint on a standard piece in the clarinet repertoire.”

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During his talk to students, he spoke of three principles for Catholics to remember about immigration. First, he said, “a person is a child of God even if he doesn’t have the proper papers.” Second, immigration policies should focus on keeping families together. And third, every nation has the right to secure its borders and regulate how many people can enter and live there, said Gomez.

**Archbishop Gomez on Immigration: “We’re Talking About Souls, not Statistics”**

Archbishop Gomez sees a need for a system that provides justice and a path to a better life for those living in our country illegally. He also sees a need for Americans to change the way they think about the United States and its history.

“Immigration is about more than immigrants, it’s a question about America. What is America, and who are we as a people?” he said. “We need to realize that we are a nation of immigrants.”

Senior Natalia Rincon, a psychology major from Freeport, N.Y., helped organize Archbishop Gomez’s visit to campus. Prior to the talk, she was part of a small group of students who joined the archbishop for a meal and conversation.

Rincon is passionate about immigration because her parents are immigrants. Last year, she participated in a University-sponsored border immersion trip to Texas and New Mexico to learn more about the issue.

“I think that we are all called to love and be loved,” she said. “Despite any political views on campus, this visit was a way for us to come together as a Christian community and try and understand why people immigrate here, what their struggles are, and to put a human face to that story.”

**University Honored for Marketing and Communication Efforts**

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Alumni Association Honors its Own

Six of Catholic University’s most distinguished alumni were honored during the 2017 Alumni Awards dinner in April. The Alumni Achievement Award, which honors alumni who have excelled in their respective fields, was presented to Vinny Sica, B.M.E. ‘83; Ellen Schultz, B.A. ‘92; and Rev. Dave Dwyer, M.Div ‘00. J. Peter Donald, B.A. ‘70, was presented with the Young Alumni Merit Award, which recognizes an alumnus who demonstrates both early career achievement and potential. Maureen Devine O'Reilly and Brendan O'Reilly, both B.A. ‘87, jointly received the George J. Quinn ‘50 Distinguished Service Award for committed service to the Alumni Association.

Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor Gary Sinise was honored with The Catholic University of America Alumni Association’s 2017 James Cardinal Gibbons Medal, the association’s highest accolade. Sinise attended the event with his family, including his daughter Ella, who earned her bachelor’s degree from Catholic University in 2015.

After receiving his award, Sinise spoke about Cardinal Gibbons and how honored he was to receive a medal in his name. Established in 1947, the Cardinal Gibbons Medal honors any person who “has rendered distinguished and meritorious service to the Roman Catholic Church, the United States of America, or The Catholic University of America.”

The actor, well known for his film roles in Forrest Gump and Apollo 13, was chosen for the award because of his decades of work with America’s service members. In 2011, he established the Gary Sinise Foundation to serve and honor military members, first responders, and their families. “I felt called by God to 'show up,'” Sinise said. “Service to others is a great leader, and I was compelled to use all the tools and training that I had been blessed with, and all the work I had done with the military over the years, to serve as a more substantial way.”

The evening’s festivities began with Mass celebrated by Father Dwyer. Siobhan Fallon Hogan, M.F.A. ‘85 and 2012 Alumni Achievement Award recipient, served as the evening’s emcee. Carrie Grundmayer, B.A. ‘96, Alumni Association president, welcomed the guests, and University President John Garvey gave the evening’s closing remarks. Music school students provided the evening’s entertainment.

The night before the Alumni Awards dinner, Sinise addressed students from the University’s Department of Drama and the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music in Callan Theatre. During a question-and-answer session, he shared stories about his early days as an actor, when he founded the nationally acclaimed Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago with friends.

Though Sinise said he doesn’t have a formula for success in the acting world, he stressed the importance of learning from experience. “Persistence is the key ingredient to success,” he said. “You have to have talent too, but theatre is so hard … 99 percent of it is rejection, with 100 people going out for one part. You have to have a pretty thick skin and a real love for what you’re doing.”
University Adopts NASA Cooperative Agreement for Space Science Research

The Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences (IACS), which is housed within the Department of Physics, is part of a team of educational institutions that was awarded a NASA cooperative agreement to establish a new Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology (CREST II). CREST II will carry out important research in support of NASA strategic science missions over the next five years. Projects and research will cover topics relating to the solar system, stars, and galaxies; the informational systems required to interpret space science data; and the development of new technology.

Cardinal University researchers will join the University Consortium of Astrophysics and Planetary Science (UCAPS), a team consisting of researchers from the University of Maryland, College Park; the University of Astrophysics and Planetary Science (UCAPS), a team consisting of researchers from the University of Maryland, College Park; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Howard University; and the Southeastern Universities Research Association. Catholic University professor Thomas Wiklind will be associate director of CREST II.

Under this agreement, which is valued at $87.3 million for five years, UCAPS will carry our observational, experimental, and theoretical research in support of NASA’s strategic science mission objectives. For its portion of the research, IACS can recover up to $10.47 million toward budgets and personnel.

Steve Kraemer, chair of the physics department, said the new partnership will provide research and career opportunities in fields like astrochemistry, solar system research, and the study of other galaxies, as well as astronomical instrumentation that could be used in future space missions.

He believes the award shows that Catholic University’s work with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center “has not gone unnoticed.”

“All these show we can do this work and that we can bring quality researchers in for them,” he said.

Andrew Yeo

Andrew Yeo, associate professor of politics, earned his Ph.D. at Cornell in 2008 and joined the faculty at Catholic University that year. Yeo has published articles on East Asian regionalism, North Korea, and other topics, and is the author of Activists, Alliances, and Anti-U.S. Base Protest. His second book, Living in an Age of Mortar, co-edited with Matthew Green, associate professor of politics, was published in July.

What drew you to write about American military bases?

It was really fascinating to see how host governments as well as civil society influence basing policy. I spoke with foreign government officials, with U.S. base officials, and with activists in several countries. There are sweeping generalizations, but the assumption for activism is that bases are mostly bad; and for those in the military, the assumption is that we’re here to defend freedom and provide security. Military bases are not inherently good or evil. Activists become jaded about government and are more than willing for anything policymakers have to say. At what point do they become socialized into this worldview? And with policymakers, is there a socialization process there as well?

Could your book be useful to activists as well as policymakers?

Yes, because a lot of it is about how you frame your arguments. Frankly, it’s like public relations. If your slogans are framed to sound more policy-oriented, you’ll get more people from the center to agree. For the policy world, it’s important to pay attention to some of these issues. The U.S. tends to build bases in places where the government is authoritarian in nature. When those governments democratize, or when the opposition comes to power, the U.S. is sometimes associated with the policies of the past dictator, and so they want the Americans out.

Do you predict any drastic changes in international relations in the near future?

A lot of foreign policy is actually run by the bureaucrats on a day-to-day basis. There’s usually a center you can waver from, but it’s very hard to make sharp turns usually. Even if things appear to be imploding at present, in the longer run there’s flexibility and resilience within the system.

What is the focus of your latest book?

The three questions we wanted the authors to look at are: What are the foundations of trust? Why do we see the breakdown of trust? How do we rebuild trust? We wanted to make it relevant to what is happening in social and political life. There isn’t a panacea or solution for how we resolve trust issues, but I did come away with a deeper understanding of some of these issues and of the different components of trust.

You’ve studied violin. If you were a piece of music, what would you be?

Zigeunerweisen by Pablo de Sarasate. The piece is roughly divided into two parts which reflect my personality: sometimes overly dramatic (the first part), and often in a rush keeping up with work and kids (the second part).

— G.V.
The stories of the Church, complex faith when a lot of people embraced making images of a very beautiful creature. When it was competing with so many other religions in the early Christian period after Christ died is that Christians embraced imagery, embraced making images of a very complicated faith when a lot of people were illiterate,” she told EWTN. “The stories of the Church, the stories of the Old Testament and the New, of Christ, and of God’s interventions in the world are told through art and they’re told so beautifully.”

Commentary/Blogs

Nora Heimann, chair and professor of history, reflected on Mexican migration in a Historians.org blog post, writing: “In March 2015, I submitted the final page proofs for my book on Mexican migration to the United States (Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War). In June of that same year, Donald Trump gave his now-infamous speech in which he called Mexican immigrants drug dealers, rapists, and criminals. We all know what has happened since then: a nativist presidential campaign, a rhetorical battle with Pope Francis: ‘At one level, President Trump and Pope Francis could not be more different,’ observed Bradley Lewis, a political philosopher at The Catholic University of America. “The Holy Father is a famously austere man, an ascetic. Donald Trump has spent his life amassing a vast fortune and boasting about it. However, they have something in common: Each is about building civilization.”

Print News/Quotes

Stephen Schneck, retired associate professor of politics and former director of IPR, was interviewed about his career in a Catholic News Service story: “At some point I came to realize that politics is the doing of civilization. It really is,” he told Catholic News Service in mid-April. “It’s not really about who’s ahead in the polls or who wins or loses. Politics in the broadest sense is about building civilization.”

From the article: “One of the arguments about Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War. In June of that same year, Donald Trump gave his now-infamous speech in which he called Mexican immigrants drug dealers, rapists, and criminals. We all know what has happened since then: a nativist presidential campaign, a rhetorical battle with Pope Francis: ‘At one level, President Trump and Pope Francis could not be more different,’ observed Bradley Lewis, a political philosopher at The Catholic University of America. “The Holy Father is a famously austere man, an ascetic. Donald Trump has spent his life amassing a vast fortune and boasting about it. However, they have something in common: Each is about building civilization.”

“Of course I was interested in Mexican migration to the United States—Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War. In June of that same year, Donald Trump gave his now-infamous speech in which he called Mexican immigrants drug dealers, rapists, and criminals. We all know what has happened since then: a nativist presidential campaign, a rhetorical battle with Pope Francis: “At one level, President Trump and Pope Francis could not be more different,” observed Bradley Lewis, a political philosopher at The Catholic University of America. “The Holy Father is a famously austere man, an ascetic. Donald Trump has spent his life amassing a vast fortune and boasting about it. However, they have something in common: Each is about building civilization.”

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“If we can’t figure out a way to achieve solidarity or find a way of healing this rift, then I worry profoundly about both American political life and our Church,” Schneck said. “That I think is the biggest task, the biggest challenge facing us. There are lots of challenges, but none of those challenges can be addressed until we address this and find a way to work together with one another.”

Four religious sisters who lived in residence halls at Catholic University were profiled in The Washington Post: The story centered on their band, A Force of Habit. From the article: “I designed my cap with the French flag because I will be enrolling in the University of Arizona’s Master of French program this upcoming fall; I also studied in Paris during my junior year.” — ABIGAIL TALEON, B.A. (PSYCHOLOGY, MINOR IN FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES)

“At an English major, I felt it was only appropriate to have a literary reference on my cap. I had a million ideas, but I settled on Shakespeare, as he’s both a cornerstone of English lit and a personal favorite of mine due to my classes with Dr. Mack.” — GRACE WOO, B.A. (ENGLISH)

“The most memorable part of commencement was being in line right before receiving my diploma. Spending my last few minutes of my undergraduate career with the same people that made the 4 years of classes so memorable was amazing.” — BRYNA MASARIK, B.S.B.A. (MARKETING, CERTIFICATE IN DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN)

“I chose to attend Catholic University because of its Catholic identity, and the school motto of ‘Deus Lux Mea Est’ — ‘God is my light,’ has been a central theme throughout my studies.” — GRETAL HAUSSMANN, B.A. (MEDIA STUDIES)
In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Landmark Conference, the league’s coaches voted for the top players in their individual sports for the All-Decade Teams. The Cardinals selections came from six different sports with seven players coming from men’s soccer as well as six each from field hockey and women’s lacrosse.

Men’s Basketball
Jason Banzhaf ’11, Chris Domina ’13, Delo Jones ’14, Theobald Fassnacht ’14, Kevin Romanos ’15, Hunter Harwick ’15, Torsten Meschnig ’16, Tyler Zimmerman ’16

Men’s Soccer
Matt Brady ’13, Michael DelMater ’12, Ben Fernandez ’14, Kevin Romanos ’15, Hunter Harwick ’15, Torsten Meschnig ’16, Tyler Zimmerman ’16

Men’s Swimming and Diving
Caleb Capozzoli ’14, Guido Sacchetti ’17

Men’s Tennis
Juan Lorido ’10, Daniel Volbers ’13

Women’s Basketball
Marcia Rucker ’17, Emily Grabnik ’14, and Michelle DeSantis ’15

Women’s Cross Country
Jenna Hackett ’09

Women’s Field Hockey
Marian Cassilly ’10, Maura Campbell ’18, Colleen Horwood ’15, Kim Herman ’15, Tara Portland ’16, and Anolin Scott ’17

Women’s Lacrosse
Alexis Biondi ’17, Lindsay Beugly ’18, Caroline DiBartolomeo ’15, Meghan Murry ’12, Kate Robinson ’10, and Mary Swartout ’12

Women’s Soccer
Talia Colten ’14, Lexi Halprin ’16, Lindsey Almen ’17

Women’s Softball
Megan Rinaldi ’12

Women’s Swimming and Diving
Lisa Broder ’11, Joanna Lucas ’16, and Jordan Wither ’15

Women’s Tennis
Liz Harvey ’15, Rachel Tenuta ’09

Women’s Track and Field
Kelly Caristo ’12, Mary Clark ’15, Laura Kinley ’13, and Cam Mayfield ’12, Mary Shashaty ’09

Women’s Volleyball
Claudia Jean ’13

Women’s Water Polo
Marc Hanna ’14

Landmark All-Decade Teams

In the 10 years since the creation of the Landmark Conference, the women’s lacrosse team has captured the championship nine times. The team leads the Cardinals in most championships since Catholic University helped found the Landmark Conference in the fall 2007 season.

The women’s lacrosse players aren’t the only ones to lift the trophy during the last decade. Twelve Cardinal varsity teams have won Landmark Conference championships with a total of 34 championships in 10 years. The field hockey team has captured the title four times. Men’s soccer, men’s basketball, baseball, women’s soccer, and women’s basketball have won three championships each. Men’s soccer has won two championships. Men’s tennis, men’s swimming and diving, softball, and women’s cross country each have one championship title.

The formation of the Landmark Conference started with meetings in 2005 and began competition in the fall of 2007. “In 2005, I had been athletic director for a matter of months when I got invited to a meeting near Philadelphia with five other athletic directors from the mid-Atlantic region who were interested in forming a new conference,” recalls Mike Allen, now the University’s vice president for student affairs. “It was clear from this and many conversations to follow that the Landmark Conference could be a great fit for the University, both in terms of competitive opportunities and the opportunity to expand our playing radius into areas where we recruited regularly.

“We had a unified goal to build a conference on a foundation of academic and athletic excellence in the full spirit of the Division III philosophy. Starting a conference from scratch was a unique opportunity. But it didn’t come without risk. Looking back now on 10 years, it’s clear our decision to be a founding member of Landmark was more than worth it.”

The conference now includes Catholic University, Drew University, Elizabethtown College, Goucher College, Juniata College, Moravian College, Susquehanna University, and The University of Scranton.

Catholic Athletics has been awarded the Landmark Conference’s President’s Trophy twice; in the 2012–2013 and the 2014–2015 seasons. The award is given to the conference athletic program judged to be the most comprehensively strong across all sports.

“It’s been a great run for our Athletics program,” says Sean Sullivan, athletic director and associate vice president. “We’ve had teams like women’s lacrosse that have had unprecedented success. But still there is always that knowledge that everyone has a chance. Just this past spring for the first time in league history, our men’s swimming and diving team captured the Landmark Conference Championship Title. There is a great spirit of competition among the conference teams.”

Sullivan says athletic competition in the conference is fostered by the “Landmark’s firm commitment to the integrity of academic experience for student-athletes.” He adds, “Experience in the classroom is paramount when we schedule conference games. Start times are planned to minimize classroom disruption. And that commitment shows in our high number of scholar-athletes each year. In the 2016–2017 season, 61% of our athletes made all-academic teams. For Cardinal Athletics, that’s as big a source of pride as our number of championships.”

Ten Landmark Years

Sport Shorts

University to Add Varsity Golf and Rowing in 2018

The Athletics Department has announced the addition of four varsity sports for the 2018–19 season: men’s and women’s golf and men and women’s rowing. The four new programs will operate under club-sport status in 2017–18 before transitioning to full varsity status for the 2018–19 school year. Rowing is already an established club program at Catholic University while golf had previously been a varsity and club sport in the late 1980s.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer these four sports at the varsity athletics level,” said Sean Sullivan, director of athletics. “Catholic University prides itself on providing a wide array of quality cocurricular activities and this move reinforces our commitment to strengthening and diversifying the student experience.”

By fall 2018, Catholic University will sponsor 25 athletic programs: 13 women’s sports (basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, indoor track and field, lacrosse, outdoor track and field, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball, and women’s soccer) and 12 men’s sports (basketball, baseball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track and field, lacrosse, outdoor track and field, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, and tennis).