How to Build a Great University

CUA’s New President Shares His Vision
How to Build a Great University

CUA’s New President Shares his Vision
FEATURES

18  Picturing Catholic University

22  Artist Claudia DeMonte: Women’s Issues With a Touch of Humor

38  Alumni Essay  An Offer I Couldn’t Refuse

Departments

President’s Forum  2
News@CUA  3
Explorations  9
Scoreboard  10
InClass  26
Reading List  28
Alumni News  29
Letters  40
Endnote  Inside Back Cover

CUA Senior Officers and Administrators

John Garvey, J.D.
President

James F. Brennan, Ph.D.
Provost

Cathy R. Wood, M.F.A.
Vice President for Finance and Treasurer

Susan D. Pervi, M.A.
Vice President for Student Life

Frank G. Persico, M.A.
Vice President for University Relations and Chief of Staff

Robert M. Sullivan, Ed.M.
Vice President for University Development

W. Michael Hendricks, Ed.D.
Vice President for Enrollment Management

Victor Nakas, M.Phil.
Associate Vice President for Public Affairs

Christine Peterson, B.S., SPHR
Associate Vice President/Chief Human Resources Officer

Kyra Lyons, M.A.
Executive Director of Alumni Relations
By John Garvey, President

My life is in transition, to say the least. In June I moved from Boston to Washington, D.C., leaving my position as dean of Boston College Law School to become president of The Catholic University of America. At every turn here on this beautiful campus, I have been greeted with an extended hand from students, faculty, and staff.

In late summer, my wife, Jeanne, joined me at CUA after taking some time to tie up loose ends in Boston. I was not only happy to have her back at my side, but also thrilled to introduce her to this welcoming university community. As Jeanne and I settle into the upstairs living space at Nugent Hall, we have reflected on yet another transition in our lives, this one of a more personal nature.

For the first time since 1977, my wife and I are living alone. As the proud parents of five grown children and the doting grandparents of 12 grandchildren (with one more on the way), we are accustomed to noise, activity, and lots of conversation. In recent years we have had as many as 13 people living under our roof with the addition of daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and even my brother-in-law for a time. As the kids were growing up, their friends were always welcome. And during their college years, it was not uncommon to have their friends living with us for the summer.

Now that four of our children have families and homes of their own and our youngest is away at college, we are empty nesters — and it is odd, sad, and wonderful all at the same time. As we make our way through the process of this life transition, something interesting is happening. The students at CUA are helping to fill the void.

In July and August, I often had my meals at the Pryz. At first, I would ask students if I could join them. After a few weeks, they would invite me to their tables before I had even filled up my tray. As the father of a bunch of kids I am, not surprisingly, comfortable around students. I particularly enjoy the age group of our undergrads. They are interesting, thoughtful, and funny — and still a bit innocent. They take advice (although they don’t always admit to it) and they offer their opinions freely. Some of their ideas and concerns we can address immediately. For instance, when they told me of a need for more “play space” in the center of campus, I had a basketball hoop put in at the parking lot near Salve Regina Hall, and we are working on a beach volleyball pit. Other larger ideas and concerns of theirs, I have filed away for reference as we plan a future course for CUA.

Now that the semester has begun and Jeanne has joined me, I don’t eat at the Pryz as often, but I make sure to have daily interactions with students. On Saturdays we cheer for CUA teams at home games; we have been attending afternoon Mass in Caldwell; we joined the freshmen at their retreat in September on the Maryland shore; and we have had small groups of students for hamburgers on the patio or for early-morning breakfast. With each interaction, it is clear to me that what I want these young men and women to get from their education at Catholic University is no less than what I expected for each of our own children’s college education. I feel responsible for every one of our students.

Recently, I met with our emergency preparedness group. We talked about the university’s contingency plans for fire, weather, illness, or acts of violence. I told my colleagues serving on this committee, “We have got to get this right. Lives are at stake and they are our responsibility.” It hasn’t taken me long to feel such a deep commitment to CUA’s 7,000 students, along with the thousand people who work here.

As Father O’Connell was preparing to step down from the presidency, he offered this advice to his successor during a farewell celebration, “Love the people of The Catholic University of America.” Already I can tell him that won’t be difficult.
Only one in five college seniors did research in spring 2009, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement, which defines research as working on a “project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements.” Developing a relationship with a professor is essential to fostering undergraduate research. That can be difficult at a larger university, where some lecture halls are huge auditoriums and faculty can be teaching 100 or more students at a time.

Despite these constraints, more colleges and universities are encouraging undergraduate research, partly because the National Science Foundation, a major provider of educational grants, is funding more of it and partly because the Association of American Colleges and Universities identified it as one of 10 “high-impact practices” in education.

At CUA, valuing undergraduates as learners and researchers is nothing new. The university was founded as one of the first graduate research institutions in the United States. And it keeps class sizes low; its average student-teacher ratio is about 15 to 1. “I came here 21 years ago, and [undergraduate research] was as important then as it is now,” says Professor Venigalla Rao, chairman of the biology department.

What is new at CUA is that other departments are in the tentative stages of competing with the hard sciences and social sciences, said L. R. Poos, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. “We have talked about emphasizing research, about going beyond the classroom setting to learn,” said Poos.

The Department of Psychology offers many of its undergraduate students opportunities to do research. Last year, it added a senior honors option for undergraduates to conduct original research. Students get credit for completing independent research and can enroll in courses on research apprenticeship. Marc Sebrechts, department chairman and professor of psychology, said that he is working with students on a project looking at gaze behavior of autistic children and a study on virtual reality and spatial skills.

For the performing arts, research opportunities may be translated to performance opportunities. The drama department offers opportunities that other departments do not. “What is special is that our many alumni in the area occasionally offer access to dress rehearsals, special events, talk-back performances, and sometimes just plain mentoring opportunities,” said Gail Beach, drama department chair and associate professor for professional practice.

The Benjamin T. Rome School of Music encourages students to do research at the Library of Congress. Its pupils have examined “primary source materials such as autograph music manuscripts by great composers such as Mozart,” said Dean Grayson Wagstaff, adding that for many years the school has “drawn on the expertise of the many scholars on the staff of the library’s music division, with whom we enjoy close working relationships.”

The School of Engineering requires as a condition of graduation that seniors complete a design project, said Dean Charles Nguyen. It also expects faculty members to initiate research programs with undergraduates.

In addition, Peter Shoemaker, director of the University Honors Program and associate professor of French, is developing a database of research opportunities for honors students. “I have been pleased to discover that many of our students are already involved in cutting-edge research,” said Shoemaker.

Encouraging undergraduates to do research produces many benefits. According to an analysis conducted by scholars Ernest Pascarella and Patrick Terenzini and published in the book How College Affects Students (Jossey-Bass, 2005), undergrad research has a “positive influence” on “persistence and degree completion” and “elevates degree aspirations … and the likelihood of enrolling in graduate school.”

Consider Olivia Hurwitz, an 18-year-old sophomore from Redding, Conn. (pictured above center with Rao and fellow biology sophomore Madeleine Stout). The biology major said she spends her free time usually in Room 303 of McCort-Ward Hall, a lab that she shares with other researchers. After putting on her latex gloves, she helps with biology Chairman Rao’s research on the DNA packaging motor of the T4 bacteriophage, a virus that infects bacteria.

Hurwitz said she has learned not only about content but also about methodology. “I think [the main benefit of] undergraduate research mostly is doing your own experiments,” she said. “I’ve learned a lot about the structure of the virus — how exactly it works. These are things you can’t exactly learn in a classroom.”
CUA in Mindanao

In May 2007, CUA’s National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS) launched a new master’s degree program a long way from Washington, D.C. — 8,700 miles away, to be exact, in the Philippines, on its large southern island of Mindanao. That island was ravaged by civil war that raged between the national government and Muslim rebels fighting for political autonomy from the 1970s to 1996, with a few flare-ups of fighting occurring since then.

NCSSS alumnus Steven Muncy invited a CUA team to train Filipino social workers and to help them with a big project: rebuilding the homes, livelihoods and lives of a million people driven into refugee camps by the war. Muncy is the executive director of Community and Family Services International, a group that has been involved in resettlement and social development in Mindanao since 2001.

More than three years ago, NCSSS and its professors began offering a two-year Master of Teaching in Social Work program to Mindanaoan social workers and social work professors, all of whom have only bachelor’s degrees. Classes are offered in English during intensive, three-week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. mini-semesters in Cotabato City, the heart of Muslim Mindanao.

Although Mindanao now enjoys a cease-fire, it is still potentially dangerous. One might imagine that few CUA professors would sign on, considering such disincentives as the prospect of political instability, long teaching hours six days a week, a 24-hour flight from D.C., and the sacrifice of their free time during summer break and the Christmas season. But it was just the opposite. Seven of the CUA social work school’s 19 professors have taught there already. Four additional professors plan to take a turn during the next four years that the program is scheduled to continue.

The first cadre of 32 Filipino social workers earned their degrees in February 2008, and another 32 students graduated in October 2010. Eighty percent of them are Muslim. Germany’s government (through an initiative to provide social development assistance), the Consuelo Foundation and a private donor pay for the CUA professors’ airfare and room and board.

“Catholic University is the only U.S. university providing master’s-level education to social workers in developing countries, and the only one providing training to resettle hundreds of displaced people as part of a Mindanao peace process,” says CUA social work Professor Frederick Ahearn, who initiated and oversees the project.

“We are also training social work professors at three state universities in the conflict-affected area, thereby assisting them to improve the quality of social work education in Mindanao and educate hundreds of new social workers to work in the resettlement and social development efforts,” says Ahearn.
Art Department Showcases 50 Years of Work

Nine distinguished artists who studied or taught at CUA were featured in the Department of Art’s exhibit “Crafting a Legacy: A Half Century of Art at CUA.” The exhibit opened during Homecoming and Reunions weekend in early October and ran through the end of the month.

Patricia Malarcher (M.F.A. 1958) and her husband, Willy Malarcher (M.F.A. 1958), met while young art students at CUA and married after graduation. Like many CUA art alums, both went on to become successful working artists. Patricia Malarcher is an acclaimed writer, editor, curator and textile artist. Willy Malarcher is a prominent liturgical designer and artist.

“She has been so much talent in our department through the years — and there still is. We were delighted to be able to share a small portion of our creative legacy through this exhibit,” said Nora Heimann, curator of the exhibit and associate professor and chair of the art department.


Serving as assistant curators on the exhibit were three senior art history students: Anna McWilliams, Marguerite Roberts and Melanie Seitz. Each of the students worked closely with three of the artists to put the show together. “Working with the students so nicely brought the past and present together,” said Patricia Malarcher. In addition to their assistant curatorial tasks, the three students served as tour guides for the exhibit during Homecoming and Reunions weekend and throughout October.

New Health Information Technology Programs Launched

The Metropolitan School of Professional Studies (MSPS) began offering three new academic programs in health information technology this fall: a bachelor’s degree, a certificate and a competency development program.

The school is offering $1.5 million in scholarship grants to students to prepare for jobs in this expanding field.

In addition, CUA’s School of Library and Information Science is partnering with MSPS to offer a master’s program.

Approximately 90 students are expected to enroll in the programs this academic year.

The need for educational programs in health information technology is great. The government has launched numerous initiatives to promote the use of information technology in health care in order to improve quality of care, prevent medical errors, reduce paperwork and cut costs. Employment in the field is projected to increase by 20 percent through 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MSPS is offering its new programs as part of Capital Health Careers, a Washington, D.C.-based health care training initiative funded in part by a $4.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Catholic University’s share of the grant — $1.5 million — will be used to defray tuition costs.

The grant will reduce tuition for the bachelor’s and master’s programs by 75 percent. Tuition for students in the certificate and competency development programs will be completely covered by the grant.
New Fund Honors John Oh

A memorial fund for the late CUA political scholar John Kie-Chiang Oh has been established. On Sept. 13, at a lunch she hosted, Oh’s wife, Bonnie, and their son James gave the school a check for $10,000 in John Oh’s name. Oh was a professor of politics and CUA’s academic vice president from 1985 to 1989 and a professor of politics from 1990 to 2001. He was a professor emeritus when he died on May 29, 2010.

The author of six books and more than 100 articles, Oh is best known for two books: Korea: Democracy on Trial (1968) and Korean Politics: The Quest for Democratization and Economic Development (1999), according to David Walsh, a professor of politics at CUA. “While a faculty member at Marquette University and later at CUA, John was a distinguished scholar, not only of Korea, but of the emblematic changes that Korea has undergone within the East Asian region,” said Walsh.

Oh’s family plans to use the fund to support a lecture series at CUA on international political and social development. They encourage all those who knew him to donate.

Please send checks to The Catholic University of America, Office of University Development, 620 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20064, or make a gift online at http://giving.cuatoday.com. Please state that your gift is intended for the Dr. John K.C. Oh Fund.

Alumni Memorabilia Displayed in Campus Exhibit

An exhibit in the John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library has evoked memories of times gone by for many alumni who have visited campus this fall. “Portal to the Past: Reflections of Student Life” contains items from Catholic University alumni who attended the university between 1915 and 1959.

The items in the exhibit were donated to the university by 11 alumni or their families and include beanies, pins, pennants and photographs, among other things.

Robin Pike, audio visual archivist, was inspired to mount this exhibit while working with some donors who were transferring their CUA memorabilia or a family member’s memorabilia. She realized that University Archives has several small collections of alumni material that would work well for a special exhibit. “Many of the traditions represented by these objects, such as freshmen rules and dance cards, are no longer used in current student life. Though many traditions have changed, a lot of similarities exist, from the camaraderie formed through dorm life to bragging about sports achievements,” Pike says.

The exhibit runs through Thursday, Dec. 9, and is free.

These items were donated by several different alumni. The “Utopian” banner at the top represents the Utopian Society, a social club on campus in the 1920s. The striped hat, from 1952, was known as a “dink”; freshmen were required to wear one. The trophy was won by CUA student Carl Horn in 1915 at a relay race carnival. Freshmen also were required to wear buttons, like the one shown here from 1954, and in the 1950s they had a book of facts. The rectangular Catholic University pennant in the middle and the “Catholic U” pennant above it are from the 1950s. The two tickets were for homecoming dances in 1956 and 1957.
Phoenix to Host 2011 Cardinals Dinner

The 22nd annual American Cardinals Dinner will be held Friday, May 6, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch. Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix, and John Garvey, CUA President, will co-host the dinner. Since its inauguration in 1989, the black-tie event has raised more than $25 million to provide scholarship support for academically qualified CUA students. For more information on the Cardinals Dinner, visit http://cardinalsdinner.cua.edu.

South Campus Project Lands Financing

The redevelopment of Catholic University’s South Campus into a college main street took a big step forward in August when CUA announced that financing for the project had been secured. Joining Abdo Development, CUA’s partner on the project, are The Bozzuto Group, a Washington, D.C., area-based residential real estate company, and Pritzker Realty Group, a Chicago-based investment firm. The Washington Post called the partnership “a major equity investment in new housing construction the likes of which have been rare since the economic collapse in 2008.”

To make way for the approximately nine-acre project along Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street, N.E., CUA plans to demolish Conaty, Spalding and Spellman halls by the end of the year. Cathy Wood, CUA’s vice president for finance and treasurer, said that Catholic University expects to break ground in the second half of 2011. The community will include approximately 720 apartments, 45 townhomes, 83,000 square feet of street-level retail, 15,000 square feet of artist studio space, a 3,000-square-foot community arts center and 850 parking spaces.

Class of 2014 is Largest on Record

CUA welcomed its largest freshman class on record, with 991 Class of 2014 students arriving on campus this fall. This is the fifth time in the last six years that a record has been set for first-time, full-time freshman enrollment. Christine Mica, dean of university admissions, attributes this to “more of a comprehensive approach by the university as a whole. The faculty recruited more prospective students; the staff greeted more prospective students; and admissions counselors were on the road for three months at college fairs, at high schools, and back in the office doing interviews and giving daily tours and special events.”
In Memoriam

Jane Pesci-Townsend, a well-known and popular musical theatre teacher, died on Aug. 6 after a long battle with cancer. She started working at CUA in the fall of 1994 teaching voice. Her duties expanded to include teaching body movement and directing shows.

In 2004, she was appointed chair of the musical theatre program. She directed productions of “Sweeney Todd,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Evita.” Pesci-Townsend was a four-time nominee for the Helen Hayes Award — the Washington area’s biggest acting honor. She was highly respected in the Washington theatre community, where she sang, acted and directed.

Robert W. Ricks, professor emeritus in the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music and conductor emeritus of the CUA Symphony Orchestra, passed away on June 20. Ricks was a respected and published scholar in the field of music. He joined the music school in 1964 and became a professor in 1972. He was the conductor of CUA’s Symphony Orchestra for nearly 30 years until 1990 when he became conductor emeritus. Ricks led the symphony orchestra through some of its most memorable triumphs.

Ricks played with the U.S. Marine Corps band, performed with the National Gallery Orchestra and the Washington Opera Orchestra, appeared in chamber concerts at the Corcoran Gallery and the Library of Congress, and substituted with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Mathilde Rovelstad, a professor of library science for 30 years, passed away on July 2. She migrated to the United States from Germany in 1951 with a doctorate in linguistics. In 1953, she became an American citizen. She received her master’s degree from CUA’s Department of Library Science in 1960 and joined the faculty upon graduation.

Rovelstad retired from CUA in 1990 as a professor emeritus of the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS). During her tenure at CUA, she encouraged library science students to bring an international perspective to their profession.

In 2004, Rovelstad and her husband, Howard, and daughter Lisa Swei gave a bequest to SLIS to help cultivate leadership in the field. The Mathilde and Howard Rovelstad Scholarship provides tuition support for academically qualified graduate students in SLIS.

Parfeny Saworotnow, professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics, passed away on Aug. 15. Born in Russia, he studied mathematics at Harvard University, earning his master’s degree in 1950 and a doctorate in 1953. He came to CUA in 1954 and was a professor from the early 1960s until he retired in 1996.

He made important contributions to functional analysis, the theory of Banach algebras and many other areas of mathematics. He had numerous publications in the world’s leading mathematical journals. A number of theorems and mathematical objects bear his name.

Saworotnow was one of the founders and organizers of the CUA seminar in functional analysis and related areas that has attracted mathematicians from the universities of the greater Washington, D.C., area since the 1960s.
on the morning of June 30, 1908, a forest in north central Siberia was hit with the equivalent of a thermonuclear blast. Eight hundred square miles of trees, covering an area roughly the size of New York City and Los Angeles combined, were stripped of their bark and limbs. Witnesses described a scene straight out of the Book of Revelation. The sky was on fire, what sounded like artillery roared, and their clothes felt as if they were burning.

One hundred years later, scientists know a lot about the Tunguska Event, which is named after the remote area in Russia in which the explosion occurred. They know that the equivalent of five to 35 megatons of TNT detonated, which is more than exploded during the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And they know that for the next 48 hours, the night sky as far away as London was bright enough to be able to read a newspaper, according to letter writers to the London Times.

But there is one thing scientists don’t know. What, exactly, caused the Tunguska blast?

No crater associated with the explosion has been found, and not until the 1920s did a scientist investigate the incident. For these reasons and others, the origins of the Tunguska event are still debated on scientific panels and in peer-reviewed journals. Was the event caused by a rocky and metallic asteroid that did not leave chunks of iron ore? Was it caused by an icy comet that penetrated the upper atmosphere and burst in the lower atmosphere? Or was it caused by something else?

CUA geophysicist Gunther Kletetschka has searched for an answer to the question. And in scholarly journals and on the Discovery Channel, Kletetschka has emerged as a leading authority in the field. He works out of two offices, one at the Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences at CUA, and the other at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

After traveling to Tunguska two years ago, Kletetschka surveyed the standing trees that survived the 1908 blast, boring into their wood and using a magnetometer to read their magnetic discharges. What showed up on his instrument was highly unusual, he said. “If this had been a regular comet, you would get chaotic directions,” said Kletetschka, who explained that electric discharges from a typical exploding object would discharge in random order, reflecting air turbulences. “But these all went in the same direction. They were perpendicular to the earth’s field.”

Kletetschka reached a startling conclusion. Traditional explanations for the Tunguska event are inadequate. The main reason for the blast wasn’t that an asteroid or comet had burst in the air miles above the site. Rather, it was an extraterrestrial object that contained a purported sea of subatomic particles that some scientists believe makes up a quarter of all creation but which can’t be seen. “This wasn’t regular rock,” Kletetschka said of material he found in Tunguska. “It was partially made up of completely different material, called dark matter.”

Judging from interviews with scientists and articles in popular scientific magazines, few astrophysicists believe that dark matter explains the Tunguska mystery. Donald K. Yeomans, the manager of NASA’s near-earth object program, explained it this way: “So little is known about dark matter that you could say anything about it.” Like many astrophysicists, Yeomans believes the Tunguska event was caused by a rare asteroid, minus dark matter, that breaks the earth’s atmosphere every 300 to 400 years.

A native of the Czech Republic, the 46-year-old Kletetschka trained to be an astronaut until tests revealed that he had poor eyesight. He earned his Ph.D. in geophysics and gravitated toward such avant-garde topics as cryobiology — the low-temperature freezing of humans and animals who can no longer be healed by contemporary medicine.

Kletetschka knows that if his theory is proved correct, it would have far-reaching consequences. “… it would be a revolution, not only theoretically, but it would open new fields,” he said. For example, scientists and political leaders would need to prepare not only for a huge asteroid hitting the earth as happened 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs were wiped out. They would also need to prepare for huge objects they could feel but not see. — M.E.S.
Senior field hockey player Andrea Baick remembers her first road game as a CUA freshman. “We lost a tough game in overtime and all I wanted to do was rest on the way home on the bus, but within a few minutes I noticed that most of my teammates had their overhead light on and school work out. I figured I better do the same,” says Baick, of Gaithersburg, Md. “Now that I am a senior, I try to convey this same work ethic to our new students,” she adds.

Baick (pictured at left) will graduate this May with a degree in marketing and has a record of achievement on and off the field, including a 4.0 grade point average during the 2009 season while also interning with the Department of Commerce. In addition, she has had three appearances on the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Academic Squad, and multiple all-conference honors.

While Baick is anything but an ordinary college student, she is typical of the CUA student athlete. CUA’s mission is centered on the pillars of reason, faith and service. These principles are not always synonymous with the daily operations of an athletic department. But anyone who spends time around the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center or talks to one of CUA’s coaches or 500-plus student athletes can see that the principles reflected in the university mission provide a guiding framework for CUA athletes.

“Our primary goal as an athletic department is to ensure that all of our programs effectively represent the values and mission of CUA,” explains Mike Allen, associate vice president and director of athletics. “This not only includes striving for excellence academically and athletically, but also promoting a culture in which our student athletes and coaches maintain the highest standards of integrity and sportsmanship. Representing CUA is a wonderful privilege and we believe that people can perform with great intensity and determination in competition, yet still promote the core principles upon which our university is built.”

CUA is a member of NCAA Division III (D3) and subscribes to the D3 philosophy, which emphasizes a healthy balance between the academic, athletic and personal success of student athletes. In D3 — NCAA’s largest division — student athletes are able to participate in highly competitive athletic programs, but are also encouraged to pursue the spectrum of opportunities available during their time in college.

“There has been an interesting transformation in D3 in the past five to 10 years,” notes Allen. “The caliber of talent seems to be at an all-time high, yet, fortunately, the core principles remain firm. There is no ambiguity — academics come first. But the level of competition in the athletic arena is as exciting as ever. This model is an excellent fit for what we are trying to convey to our students.”

Academic Excellence

The “fit” Allen refers to is evident in the level of academic and athletic success achieved by CUA teams and student athletes in recent years. Despite the significant time and energy they put into their sports, CUA student athletes do more than just get by in the classroom. For each of the last four years, roughly 70 percent of graduating student
Campus Ministry came together with a group of students to form Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC). Their purpose was to facilitate student athletes’ opportunities to grow in their spiritual life and to share the word of the Gospel with fellow student athletes through meetings and retreats. “When I was a freshman, one of my teammates got me involved in CAC. I had been a member of Fellowship for Christian Athletes in high school so it was something I had an interest in,” says T.J. Cooney, a football player from Westover, Md., who is also CAC’s president. “I quickly found that CAC provided a comfortable setting for students to practice and develop their faith. And for athletes, the group helps prepare us to serve as spiritual leaders and role models within our own teams.”

The emphasis on faith translates into a commitment to service. CUA’s athletes visit retirement homes or hospitals, participate in charity events and volunteer at the Special Olympics, which is held on campus. A favorite service activity for the athletes takes place on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday when multiple teams help spruce up Washington, D.C., public schools.

Says Head Football Coach Dave Dunn, “Our guys take a tremendous amount of pride in knowing that when those kids return to their school, it will be a much nicer place. Our team wants to make a difference; they want to be involved. They know they had people continually helping them when they were young kids and now they have a chance to do the same thing and it excites them.”

Emmjolee Mendoza-Waters, CUA’s associate campus minister for service programs, sees an added benefit when student athletes take an active role in growing their faith and committing to service. “It’s wonderful to see our student athletes and coaches serving alongside each other in the community. They set an example for the CUA community as well as the larger D.C. community. Our athletics department makes it a priority to integrate the mission of the university into the lives of their athletes, and that truly does make for a winning team on and off the field,” she says.

**Success on the Field**

While academic success and character formation are central to the athletics department’s philosophy, success in the athletic arena is not overlooked. The athletes’ records speak for themselves. The women’s lacrosse team has won three consecutive Landmark Conference championships, and made two appearances in the NCAA final eight; the men’s and women’s soccer programs won their respective conference championships and earned NCAA tournament bids in 2009; the baseball team won conference championships in 2008 and 2009; the football team won a post-season bowl game for the first time in 73 years in 2008; the men’s basketball team has been a regular in postseason play; the softball and men’s lacrosse teams have enjoyed program-best victory totals in recent years; and the field hockey program is enjoying its best start ever in 2010 with seven straight wins and a national ranking to begin the season.

But the commitment to excellence is about more than winning on the athletic field. It is reflected in how CUA student athletes and coaches conduct themselves before, during and after competition. “When our coaches go out recruiting, they’re looking for young men and women who will be a good match for our university. We aspire to be one of the premiere D3 programs in the country and that expectation extends beyond success in the athletic arena. We recognize that with the name on our jersey, we often get held to a higher standard, but we welcome the challenge,” says Allen.
He is CUA’s 15th president and third lay president. As John Garvey settled into the start of the academic year in early September, he welcomed CUA Magazine Editor-in-Chief Victor Nakas into his office at Nugent Hall. Since taking the helm as President in July, Garvey says he has made it a priority to listen to the CUA community as he begins to chart a future course for the University.

But on this fall morning, Nakas turned the tables, asking Garvey to do the talking. In the following interview, Garvey shares his ideas, plans, and insights as he settles into his new role.

CUA Magazine: Since becoming president, you’ve been studying the history of CUA. What have you discovered about the University through that process?

Garvey: Quite a lot. I’ve been surprised at the amount of written history of the University that exists. I’ve inherited a shelf of books about the Catholic University centennial, biographies of many of the early presidents, and histories of that period in American Catholic higher education and in American higher education in general.

The first thing that struck me in reading these institutional histories is how noble the ambitions of the people who started the University in the 19th century were. American higher education at that time, like higher education in the English-speaking world generally, was fashioned after a different pattern than the one we’re familiar with in the 21st century. It was almost entirely for the education of young men. At Catholic University, it was a focus more on clergy than just the general male population.

The curriculum that an educated young gentleman was supposed to understand was more settled and narrower than it is nowadays. The notion of selecting courses of study and particular elective courses was something that would have seemed strange to them. And more important, the notion that a university should engage in research or the fostering of knowledge was not a familiar one to them. That is something that the Germans began to do in their universities in the middle of the 19th century. The example that this University looked at for thinking about its own case was Louvain in Belgium, a graduate institution for people who had already received the first college course of instruction.

This was typical in the European model. But in the United States, it was not common. Johns Hopkins University was the best American model of this, a place that was primarily focused on graduate study. It was the pattern that Ivy League schools followed afterward, and the pattern that The Catholic University of America set for itself from the very beginning. It surprised me that we began at this high level of sophistication.

CUA Magazine: When you were introduced as the new President of the University on June 15, you told the assembled faculty and staff that you intended to do a lot of listening in your first year as President. What have you heard that has made an impression on you through this process?

Garvey: I spent the summer sitting down with people and listening. I spent time with students, staff, administrators, public safety personnel, and faculty. The first thing that has made an impression on me is how welcoming the people at this University are. I have never been so happy to have a new job as I am to have this one. It’s just a pleasure to go to work every day, and I suspect that other new faculty, staff, and students have been similarly welcomed. I’ve heard from parents who attended freshman orientation that they were just so pleased with how their children were welcomed into this institution. And when I join freshmen for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, I continually hear things like “I’m so happy to be here.” That’s something you have no way of measuring until you experience it. It’s been a wonderful way to begin my job here.

The second thing that I’ve learned in walking around comes from seeing rather than listening. I didn’t appreciate before I came on June 15 how beautiful this campus is. My only real experiences of being at Catholic University were speaking at the law school on a couple of occasions, and, while here for the interview process, sneaking out at 5 in the morning in a taxi cab to drive around the campus when no one was around.

Two things impressed me most. First is the architectural beauty of many of our buildings — Gibbons, O’Connell, the Mullen Library, Shahan, and Mcgivney; even older buildings like Caldwell and McMahon are so pretty. The newer buildings, such as the Pryzbyla Center and the law school, are particularly attractive and well-designed both inside and out for newer buildings, and that’s a really nice thing.

It’s really great.” That’s something you have no way of measuring until you experience it. It’s been a wonderful way to begin my job here. 
The other feature I have come to appreciate from walking around is how well planned much, but not all, of the space is. There are sightlines that you have standing in the middle of the quadrangle defined by McMahon and the Basilica and Gibbons and the library; or standing down by the arch at the end of the law school’s quadrangle and looking up the hill toward the Basilica with McMahon on the right and Crough on the left. They’re very beautiful sightlines and well protected by the people who have been building here.

On the other hand, when you go into some of these buildings, they’re not as beautiful as they are on the outside. They need some improvement, but that’s something we’ll have to do in the future.

In terms of what I’ve learned from talking to faculty, one thing that impresses me is that there remain the same kind of academic ambitions with which the University began in the 19th century. There really is a desire, maybe not completely fulfilled or satisfied yet, to be the great Catholic university in the United States.

Among the students, I have been immensely impressed by their commitment to the mission of this University as a Catholic university. Their day-to-day life, their attendance at liturgical functions, their classroom work is everything that I would hope to find in the way of that commitment. I’ve been really impressed at the amount of work in student life that is done by students. I haven’t ever seen this model so elaborately implemented as I see it here. The students who are resident assistants, the student ministers, the students who are orientation advisers, the students who work at the desk in the Pryz, or answer telephones in the president’s office — they aren’t just chosen at random and put in those jobs. They are well trained, they know what they’re doing, and they represent the University unusually well. This is one of the great success stories in the management of this University.

**CUA Magazine:** As you devote your first year to a lot of listening through your many interactions with students, have you also found yourself motivated to impart some kind of message to them?

**Garvey:** While I’m careful not to tell students how to run their own lives, I have been encouraging those who don’t know what course of study they want to follow, who are still making their own way intellectually, to be comfortable with that. I’m glad to see that the University accommodates that quest during students’ first year through the First-Year Experience, and to see the increase in the level of freshman advising that we provide and the greater sensitivity to “exploratory” students. It’s important for students to know it’s OK to take a little bit of time deciding what they want to learn while they’re in college.

**CUA Magazine:** Have you found that there’s much of a readjustment given that your focus for the past decade as dean of the Boston College Law School had been dealing with law students who are a bit older and at a different life stage than undergraduates?

**Garvey:** As far as the students are concerned, it has been a marked adjustment and a really pleasant one. College students are people who grow up a lot in the course of their passage from freshman to senior year. Beginning law students are usually a couple of years out of college. So there’s a difference of as much as seven to 10 years in the age groups. College students tend to commit more of their lives to a university than law students, who come to the campus to take their classes, but who may have jobs or spouses or a whole other set of friends and concerns outside the university. Our undergraduates invest much more of their lives in the University so you get to know them in a much deeper way. That’s something I love.

**CUA Magazine:** What unique perspective or personal quality do you bring to Catholic University?

**Garvey:** One of the things that I bring to the University is perspective from other colleges and universities in regards to the kinds of standards we ought to be reaching for, what our ambitions ought to be, and what the benchmarks fixed by other colleges and universities, Catholic and not, are. I have experience at state universities like Kentucky and Michigan, and Catholic universities like Notre Dame and Boston College. At this point in my life, I have a fairly broad view of higher education in the United States.
I have also served as president of the Association of American Law Schools so I have a very good idea of the breadth and variety of legal education in America. In a way, the intellectual modesty of lawyers may be an advantage. Lawyers are great intellectual arbitrageurs. They borrow from what theologians and historians and economists and scientists are doing. Because the law regulates so many parts of our lives, lawyers need to know about all of this. I am interested in lots of other departments and schools at universities. At Boston College I actively promoted joint programs with the other schools and departments. Knowledge nowadays is much more collaborative and interdisciplinary than it was 10 or 20 years ago, and I bring that perspective. An exterior perspective and a breadth of vision are some things I think this University needs from all of us who are working here if it is to fulfill its intellectual ambitions.

Another unusual perspective that I bring is that of a lay president. We have been accustomed to having priests as presidents, and I don’t think we ought to forsake that as a general matter. But I also don’t think it serves the University’s best interests to follow that course no matter what. At this time in the history of American higher education and in this period in the evolution of the American Catholic Church, employing the gifts of committed, lay Catholics in service to the Church and its institutions could be quite beneficial. Lay people will have to play increasingly important roles in the governance of Church affairs in parishes, as well as at universities. So just by virtue of my vocation as a lay person, I bring an important perspective.

“Among the students, I have been immensely impressed by their commitment to the mission of this University as a Catholic university.”

CUA Magazine: As the theme of your inaugural year, you’ve chosen “Intellect and Virtue: the Idea of a Catholic University.” Why did you choose this particular theme?

Garvey: The intellect part of this is easier to understand because most everybody sees that as the business of a university. The connection between intellect and virtue is one that is more controversial in a couple of senses. As I prepared for my new position as President, I read John Henry Newman’s The Idea of a University, which was a book written on the occasion of his becoming the rector of the Catholic University of Ireland. Newman’s views about research universities were different from mine and different from the views of this University. His views about the role of virtue in the formation of the intellect were more like ours.

Newman had almost a nostalgic view of the education that he had received at Oxford University. At Oxford, and in fact at prominent American universities in the mid-19th century when he became rector, the goal was to educate young gentlemen. It was not just about teaching good manners, but about the formation of character as well as the study of appropriate subjects.

In the 21st century, many administrators and faculty at American colleges and universities think it is not the business of the university to be concerned about the formation of the character of their students. The business of a university, John Dewey would say, is to put a number of points of view in front of the students and let them choose the one that appeals to them. Some people might go farther and say that how students ought to live their lives is
the concern of the parents. In other words, as long as we stay within the legal rules, the rest of what students do in their daily lives is not the concern of the university.

As the parent of five children who have attended Catholic colleges, I disagree. In sending our children to colleges and universities, my wife and I have expected these schools to follow the path that we have laid out in the moral instruction of our children and to teach them that they have obligations of generosity to the society they live in, to their friends, to the institutions that they work for, and to the poor. We expected that our children would graduate from college loving the Church more than they did even when they arrived there. That’s also my expectation of Catholic University for the students that we educate here.

CUA Magazine: Have you given any thought to how you might wish to engage Catholic University’s alumni?

Garvey: I think this is an area where the University can improve its performance a lot. We have more than 80,000 alumni and I don’t believe they are involved enough in the life of the University. We need to communicate better with them about what the University is doing and what its ambitions are. We need to involve alumni in helping us recruit students, in helping our students who graduate find employment, and in spreading the word in their communities about The Catholic University of America. We need to involve our alumni in giving financially to the University through the Annual Fund and other means. They’re not going to do that if they don’t feel the University is alive today in their own lives, so they need to hear from us.

I think we need to pay more attention to connecting alumni both chronologically with people who were in their classes and geographically across years. The Catholic University alumni who live in Miami need to know one another across years and across disciplines. We have tended to connect them — to do a better job than some universities — through their schools. But we can do a lot more to connect them through time and place.

CUA Magazine: Catholic University started out as a graduate institution. Most other Catholic colleges and universities in the United States did not. What is more important to a university today: graduate education or undergraduate education?

Garvey: We didn’t admit undergraduate students until 17 years into our history. Even today, more than 100 years after we first admitted undergraduates, you still get the feeling sometimes that undergraduates are or ought to be a matter of secondary concern, with graduate studies being the proper work of the University. I don’t believe this is so. I believe that the possibilities for education at this University are enhanced by the presence of undergraduates in two different ways. First, graduate education is, from the point of view of a university, a much more expensive proposition because graduate students at the best-supported universities don’t pay for their education. Not only are they given tuition advantages, but they’re also given stipends to come. Undergraduates support the University financially to a much greater extent and that’s something we who keep an eye on the budget need to pay attention to. Just as a matter of financial reality, it’s difficult in a university that doesn’t have an immense endowment to think about subsisting simply on graduate education.

“We expected that our children would graduate from college loving the Church more than they did even when they arrived there.”
More important, the population that we educate has changed significantly since the late 19th century. When the American Catholic bishops conceived the idea of beginning this University after the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore, they were thinking chiefly of further education for priests who already had their bachelor’s degrees and needed more sophisticated instruction. Most of our students, undergraduate and graduate, are not priests nowadays, although I am happy to say that our Theological College is flourishing and I hope it will continue to grow. But we’re educating the lay leaders of the American Catholic Church. That’s something that we need to do on the college level. We can’t begin with them as graduate students and produce the people who will do the work of the Catholic Church in the future. Undergraduates are essential to the mission of this University.

CUA Magazine: You have said that The Catholic University of America can and should be the great Catholic university in the United States. How do we get from here to there?

Garvey: There are three important ingredients in building a great university and we need all of them in greater measure than we have now. The work of a university is done by its faculty. If you want to build a great university, you have to hire and support great faculty. We need to have the highest ambitions about the faculty we attract to this University.

In the same way, we need to attract great students at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The third essential ingredient is money. You can’t be a great university without great resources. If we are going to compete for faculty with America’s best institutions, Catholic and not, we need to be able to support them at the level that our competition supports them. The same is true of students. We need to find a way for more students to afford to come here. This is going to take a lot of money. We are the national university of the Catholic Church. We need the help of the American Catholic Church in generating the financial support that will make this a great institution.

In some people’s minds, the way to become a great university, like Princeton University or the University of Chicago, is to become like them in all respects. Princeton University used to be a Presbyterian university. The University of Chicago was a Baptist university when it began. Some people make the mistake of thinking that because Princeton has put its Presbyterianism in a divinity school and the University of Chicago has done essentially the same thing with its religious principles, we should follow a similar course. Exactly the opposite is true. We are in the best position to attract better faculty and better students if we are forthright about the Catholic character of this institution. There are people whose lives are centered on their faith and who want to work at an institution where that’s the central focus. We need to hold fast to that. In fact, we need to make it even more prominent if we hope to become America’s great Catholic university.

You can read more about President John Garvey at http://president.cua.edu. He will be inaugurated as CUA’s 15th president on Jan. 25, 2011. Look for complete coverage in the spring issue of CUA Magazine.
Picturing Catholic University

By Robert P. Malesky
I n May 2010, CUA graduate Robert Malesky published The Catholic University of America — a photographic history. Here he shares a sampling of historic photos and an inside look at how he put the book together.

What image pops into your mind when you think of Catholic University? Is it McMahon Hall, sitting proudly at the end of the university mall, or Caldwell Hall, with its somber façade? Is it the Basilica? Well, that’s not a formal part of the university anymore, though its presence is still imposing. Maybe it’s the dorm room you had in freshman year, or a concert in the gym, or a football game in the old stadium. Or maybe you picture Brookland, with its cozy houses and tree-lined streets? Perhaps it’s the people you remember best — fellow students, favorite teachers, maybe even an administrator or two.

I tried to keep all of those images in mind as I prepared the new photographic history of the school for Arcadia Publishing. As an alumnus myself (B.A. 1973), I had my own perceptions of CUA, but I wanted the book to ring true for anyone who had walked the campus and spent time there. I also wanted it to be a real history, not just a photo album, but one that told the story of the university through images.

I did considerable research, and now have a sizable shelf of books about the early days of the school. I spent a lot of time in Mullen Library, reading articles in the Catholic University Bulletin and other old sources. But by far I spent the most time in Aquinas Hall, at the American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives, where the audiovisual collection is stored.

There, with the help of Audio Visual Archivist Robin Pike, I pored over thousands of photos from CUA’s first 80 years. Arcadia wants its books to focus on “vintage” pictures, so I didn’t spend much time with anything more recent than 1970. Still, that meant going through more than 140 boxes of photos, which kept me in the nice, cool archives during one of Washington’s hot, humid summers.

CUA was founded in 1887. Having pictures of the university’s earliest days was crucial, but few were in the collection. Fortunately for me, when the school’s first rector, Bishop John Keane, was dismissed from his position by Pope Leo XIII in 1896, the faculty presented him with a memorial photo album. Most of the pictures are portrait shots of faculty members, but a few show campus buildings.

One picture helped out a great deal. The Middleton family owned the land that Catholic University purchased for the campus. Their manor house was built...
in 1803 by the original owner, Samuel Harrison Smith (photo 1). He and his wife, Margaret Bayard Smith, called it “Sidney” and entertained early Washington society there. It sat on the grassy knoll between what are now the Crough Center and McMahon Hall. When Catholic University acquired the land and the building, it gave Sidney to the Paulist Fathers, who called it St. Thomas Aquinas College and quickly began building additions. The college eventually reverted to CUA, became known as St. Thomas Hall, and stayed in use until 1970, when it was demolished. All the pictures I had seen showed the enlarged St. Thomas Hall, which was expanded both upward and outward (photo 2). It wasn’t until I looked in the Keane photo album that I finally found a picture that showed Sidney’s original incarnation.

Rector Keane’s memorial album also contained a wonderful image of Caldwell Hall, which was expanded both upward and outward (photo 3). The Washington Post damned it with faint praise: “The architecture is massive, simple and severe … it depends for its effects upon the eye on its severe simplicity of outline and harmonious proportions.” Designed by E.F Baldwin and originally called Divinity Hall, it became known as Caldwell Hall within a decade. Caldwell Hall was named for Mary Gwendolen Caldwell, a young heiress who donated $300,000 to start Catholic University. Since she is considered a significant benefactor of the school, I thought I’d have no problem locating a picture of her in the archives. I was wrong. There was nothing there, so I looked at outside sources. There were no descendants to contact about photos. I went to the Peoria diocese where her mentor, Bishop John Lancaster Spalding, had resided. The diocese had photos of a young woman labeled “probably a Caldwell,” but that wasn’t definitive enough. I contacted the Louisville archdiocese, home of the Caldwell family. No luck. Finally, after more frustrating research, I tracked down an 1889 issue of Cosmopolitan magazine that contained a photo of her in an article on young socialites (photo 4). It wasn’t the best quality, but I finally had an image.

Bishop Spalding was not just Mary Gwendolen’s mentor. He was a longtime family friend and had also served as the chaplain of the New York grade school that Miss Caldwell and her younger sister Mary Elizabeth attended. But he was much more than a priest with wealthy connections. John Lancaster Spalding was a dynamic, charismatic man and the leading Catholic intellectual in the field of education. He spoke passionately about the issue and wrote several important books and treatises. More than any other person, he spearheaded the drive that led to the formation of Catholic University. I found a few pictures of him, and I like this one especially, when he was that forceful young scholar (photo 5).

Most of the photos in the collection are studio compositions. For the photograph of Catholic University’s first faculty in 1889, the studio came to the school; in this case Mathew Brady’s studio sent a photographer to campus to shoot the professors gathered on the front steps of Caldwell Hall.

It was a small group, but contained some esteemed professors, none more so than Rev. Henri Hyvernat, a leading authority on Semitic languages (photo 6). That’s him on the top left of the faculty photo (Rector John Keane is in the center). Hyvernat served the longest of those initial faculty members, from 1889 to 1941. At the Library of Congress I found a beautiful picture of him near the end of his career, and felt compelled to include it (photo 7).

Bishop Thomas Shahan, the fourth rector of Catholic University, was known as the “builder rector.” In 1909, he started a construction program focused on the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. Gibbons Hall was the first of that style, followed by Graduate Hall (recently renamed Father O’Connell Hall) and Maloney Hall. Early in his tenure he commissioned an artistic rendering of his dream for the university. As you can see in this perspective view, Collegiate Gothic buildings dominate the campus (photo 8). If you look closely, you can see Caldwell, McMahon,
and Gibbons halls, as well as O’Boyle and Marist halls at the top. The university church, which would eventually become the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, is also Gothic at this point.

The Gothic vision of the campus never came to fruition. Maloney Hall, which opened its doors in 1914, turned out to be the last of the Collegiate Gothic style buildings on campus. Once the National Shrine (now the Basilica) changed from a Gothic design to a Byzantine/Romanesque one, the rest of the university’s architecture changed as well.

Archivist Robin Pike helped me find this drawing, as well as many other non-photographic images that I included in the book. I felt it was important to include representations of CUA college life that might not be pictures. So there’s a B&O railroad ticket from downtown to University Station (which stood where the CUA entrance to the Metrorail is today), a freshman religion exam, hazing rules for freshmen and a number of other items.

I was also looking for the unusual, and as I went through the boxes of photos, I found a number of surprises. Back in the 1930s, football was huge at the university. Coach Dutch Bergman led the Catholic University team to victory in the Orange Bowl in 1936. I found a good photo of him with a group of fellow coaches from 1939, and thought one of the men looked familiar (photo 9). It turned out to be “Slingin’” Sammy Baugh, quarterback for the Washington Redskins (then only in their second year in Washington, D.C.), and future NFL hall-of-famer. Here he is wearing a CUA T-shirt. Coach Bergman is next to him at the left of the photo.

I was always on the lookout for photos that would resonate with alumni. Often that meant focusing on the buildings, especially those that have disappeared over the years. The first dormitory I stayed in at CUA was Albert Hall. I found lots of pictures of Albert (which was originally named Keane Hall), but one in particular impressed me. Albert Hall was the first dormitory for lay students and it was the first building erected along Michigan Avenue. This picture from 1896, shortly after Albert was built, shows just how sparse the campus looked at that early stage (photo 10). Albert Hall was demolished in 1970.

When I was a student in the late 1960s and early 1970s, we all spent time in the administration building (photo 11) on Michigan Avenue. That’s where you went for student loans, housing and all sorts of things. It was originally built in 1903 by the Catholic Missionary Union. The building was torn down in 1996.

There are dozens of other interesting photos in the book: Father Gilbert Hartke with George M. Cohan, James Cagney, Walter Kerr, and three U.S. presidents; Monsignor Patrick Skehan examining the Dead Sea Scrolls; Bishop Fulton Sheen as a student in 1920; Emerson Meyers and his Moog synthesizer (one of the first); and of course the visits by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. The hard part was not so much choosing which photos to put in, but which to leave out.

Through it all, the staff of the American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives went out of their way to help. Robin Pike spent hours at the scanner, and did a superb job. And now the archives has many more images available digitally than before I started this project.

Once the photos were selected, the writing could begin. That took about a month and a half, and as each chapter was completed I would send it to Victor Nakas, associate vice president for public affairs, for review by him and University Provost James Brennan. Together, we made sure the book was as accurate and inclusive as possible. The final result does, I think, tell the story of the university in an accessible and engaging way, and will give any alumnus plenty of reason to feel a little nostalgic and proud.

Copies of Robert Malesky’s book are available for purchase at the CUA Bookstore on campus and online, as well as at bookstores and online services such as amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.
As a child growing up in Queens, N.Y., Claudia DeMonte was the tallest 14-year-old in her school at 5 foot 11, leading classmates to heckle her with names like “Daddy Longlegs” and “Wilt the Stilt.” But when she was 22 and earning her Master of Fine Arts degree at Catholic University, she was stopped on the street by a Washington Post fashion editor who offered her a job modeling for the paper’s Style section. Later that year a Glamour magazine executive told DeMonte she could be “the next Jean Shrimpton,” referring to the biggest supermodel of that time.

The transformation from ugly duckling to swan, although a welcome change, was also troubling. “I had been told that I didn’t look right, and then all of a sudden I was told I looked right, and it didn’t make sense to me because I was always the same person,” she says.

The whiplash change in others’ perception set DeMonte on a lifelong quest for the essence of her identity, and of all women’s identity — a search carried out through her paintings and sculptures.

This year she is getting significant attention in a new art book titled Claudia DeMonte (Pomegranate Press), and in a traveling retrospective exhibition of her art. That exhibition is at the Katzen Arts Center at Washington, D.C.’s American University from Nov. 2 to Dec. 12, and then goes to the Trustman Art Gallery at Boston’s Simmons College from early February to early March 2011, and to the...
art gallery of York College of Pennsylvania in 2011 or early 2012. The show has already been exhibited at the Mississippi Museum of Art, Alabama’s Mobile Museum of Art, Michigan’s Flint Institute of Arts and other venues.

“I think the new book will begin the process that will finally position her appropriately as a major American artist,” opines Mary Ann Tighe, a fellow CUA graduate who is author of the book and television series Art America, was on the inaugural staff of the Smithsonian Institution’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and is now the first woman chairman of the 114-year-old Real Estate Board of New York.

“Claudia was far ahead of other artists in four areas that have emerged as dominant late-20th-century and early-21st-century trends in art: a focus on the global artistic scene, a deep appreciation of folk art as serious art, appropriation of existing artistic images into her own work (for example, taking the painted nudes of famous artists and recreating them as sculptures), and a focus on her identity as a woman in her art,” says Tighe.

DeMonte’s work also stands out for its sense of humor (a proclivity that led her to co-write a 1983 joke book titled The Height Report: A Tall Woman’s Handbook).

“Humor gets a message through,” she says.

Artists get at the universal through the particular, and that’s particularly true of DeMonte. Although most of her art makes reference to her own life, it is also about every woman.

Much of her work also incorporates images related to her Catholic upbringing, such as her sculptures representing the iconography of a fictional St. Claudia who showers the world with flowers, climbs a ladder of daggers, and rises with wings from her coffin.

Combining her interests in Catholic imagery and women’s identity, she has carved wood into the shapes of stereotypical women’s objects — a purse, a high-heel shoe, a phone, etc. — whose black surfaces are studded with pewter votive medals that look like the milagros, or prayer charms, characteristic of Hispanic and Italian Catholicism (see examples on pages 22 and 25). The milagros, which she designed, are shaped like hearts, houses, purses and the like. She calls this series of artworks “female fetishes” — sculptural icons that satirize and celebrate women's traditional roles.

Her work “combines a marvelous obsessive craftsmanship and a personalized technology with a novel sense of the fantastic — all wrought into a special blend of deadpan reality and irrational dreamstuff,” says The Philadelphia Inquirer.

“Feminist and funny, her paintings, sculptures, prints and installations demonstrate that challenges to the patriarchy … and the dethroning of high art don’t have to be ponderous matters,” writes art critic Eleanor Heartney in the new book on DeMonte’s work.

**From CUA to the World**

Success in the art world came fairly early for DeMonte. Five years after her 1971 graduation from CUA, she had her own one-woman show at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, one of Washington, D.C.’s leading art museums. She has gone on to have more than 60 solo shows at galleries and museums, and many of her artworks have been purchased by U.S. and European museums.

She has been a mentor as well. From 1972 to 2005, she taught art at the University of Maryland, a professorship that she commuted to from her loft in the Soho neighborhood of Manhattan.

In 1996, her life took an intriguing turn when she and her husband, sculptor Ed McGowin, traveled to a traditional tent-making factory in Tibet to help her mentor — CUA art Professor Nell Sonnemann — research the latter’s book on appliqué folk art.

While at the factory, DeMonte hired the female laborers there to translate stereotypical symbols of a woman’s world — a toaster, a diamond engagement ring, a camera, etc. — into cotton appliqué shapes for a quilt. She quickly saw, however, that these shapes, which to her were central icons of female identity, didn’t mean...
anything to the laborers, who weren’t familiar with them.

“I was shocked,” the artist remembers. “Although I had been to 80 countries, I was so naïve as to think the images I was using were universal — and now I could see they weren’t.” The experience led DeMonte to ask herself what images represent womanhood for artists in other parts of the world. This, in turn, led her to a blithely ambitious scheme: asking one female artist in each country in the world to submit an artwork that represents womanhood to them, with the goal of exhibiting all these works as a group.

It sounded simple enough, but there are a lot of countries in the world — more than 180 in the United Nations at the time she embarked on her project. After six months focusing on the task, she had gotten artwork from only 50 countries. After two and a half additional years of hard work, slow mail, and querying U.N. cultural attachés, foreign consulates and New York Times foreign correspondents, she finally gathered artwork from women in 177 countries.

In so doing, she had assembled something unprecedented: an exhibition that Mary Ann Tighe calls “the only truly global view of contemporary visual expression by women, many from countries that have no documented culture of women producing art.”

Many of the artworks are exuberant about the strength and contributions of women. Others testify to male oppression of women. The images range from the face of a crying baby to women working in the fields, and from pieces of traditional weaving to a high-heel shoe attached to a ball and chain.

Twenty-four museums in the U.S., Europe and Asia ended up hosting the exhibition, which drew tens of thousands of art lovers. DeMonte says several people wept while viewing the exhibition; others hugged her in gratitude. The art was simultaneously published as the lavishly illustrated 2000 art book Women of the World: A Global Collection of Art. The exhibition will become part of the International Museum of Women after that museum is built in San Francisco.
The choice of which artist would represent the United States in the exhibition was a difficult one, DeMonte says, since hundreds of American women artists expressed interest in having one of their pieces chosen. “I couldn’t figure out the right person,” she recalls, “and then I realized that CUA’s Nell Sonnemann was my ‘art mother’ and mentor, and no one could criticize me for choosing her. I wouldn’t be who I am without her. She was a magical person, like someone who threw stardust over you and made you see everything differently. There is no way for me to explain in words how brilliant she was as a teacher.”

DeMonte’s autobiographical urge to capture female identity thus became a thoroughly international and universal endeavor — one that pays tribute to a life-changing Catholic University professor. CUA

Female Fetish: Shoe, 2008. Pewter and brass on wood. 5 x 7 x 3 inches.

Exercise Class With Jewelry, 2008. Bronze. Each figure is 7–8 inches long.
You might think that a summer session class — especially one in the dead heat of July — would move more slowly than a back-to-school September class, with its freshly sharpened pencils and eager students. But in Professor Timothy Noone’s Philosophy 301: Reasoning and Argumentation, you would be wrong. The students could prove it beyond the shadow of a doubt.

They would do so by dissecting your idea — that the course would be slow-moving — and showing where your premises fall apart. They would illustrate where, in the parlance of philosophical logic, your conclusion is invalid. And they would prove their own points the same way, as they did with countless examples over the course of this intensive, five-week class.

These students, most of them juniors and seniors, are sharp. They have done their homework, to read the book *The Art of Reasoning* by David Kelley and Plato’s well-known book, *Five Dialogues*. Like all CUA students, they are required to complete four courses in the School of Philosophy, which is the second oldest school in the university, established in 1895. They are no strangers to deep thinking.

Two of them go to the board on this summer day to illustrate their arguments as if they are mathematical equations, with “greater than” and “less than” symbols, lines indicating equations, and words substituting for numbers. “Logic is more mathematic,” says Tripp Roy, of New Orleans, La., who calls this class “the most important” of all he’s taken. “There is a clear and definite answer every time, and that’s refreshing for someone whose curriculum has been primarily liberal arts.” Roy graduates in December.

The problems discussed in class — many made more interesting by their authors, notable individuals including early Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, Shakespeare, or editorial writers for *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* — are examined with no regard for moral right or wrong. Even when the topic is potentially volatile — whether undocumented immigrants are discriminated against because the driver’s license test is in English only, for example — passion and emotion have nothing to do with whether the argument is valid. It can either be proven or not.

Roy, who will attend law school in his home state, goes to the board with the following problem, from Kelley’s book:

“If the direction of the flow of time, from past to present to future, depends on the expansion of the universe, then time will reverse its direction if the expansion stops and the universe begins contracting — as current evidence from astrophysics suggests it will.”

Another problem, this one tackled by Sultan Albanyan, a student of economics from Chantilly, Va., has to do with whether price controls will work to control inflation and says, in part, “[price
controls] would work, perhaps, if every law of economics were false, but some of those laws are supported by overwhelming evidence.” There is an undercurrent of sarcasm in the problem, but Albanyan’s examination of its logic is devoid of opinion or judgment and has more to do with assumptions — or premises — being incorrect.

The students’ unemotional but thorough engagement is largely due to the example set by Professor Noone. A professor at CUA since 1994, he has taught some variation of this class for 21 years (at St. Bonaventure University before he came here). He also teaches Philosophy of God: The Desire to Know, based on Aristotle; Metaphysics of John Duns Scotus; and several other courses. He is a recognized scholar and author on such topics as medieval philosophy, Franciscan philosophy, and metaphysics in the high Middle Ages.

Noone picks apart another problem: “Liberals believe in government support for academic research. Since no one who favors liberty can accept interference by the state in the realm of ideas, liberals do not really favor liberty.” After much discussion over whether liberals believe in government spending for research, and the difference between government support and interference, Noone says that some of those laws are easily disproven.

Again, Noone gives engaging examples: people once thought there was a sight ray that came out of the eye to touch the object being observed, he says; this is an example of “appeal to majority,” i.e., if everyone believes this, it must be true. He thinks up a different sort of example for “appeal to emotions,” or ad Misericordiam: A college professor is being reviewed for tenure, and although he has published little and his student evaluations are less than stellar, the committee still considers the possibility of awarding tenure because he has a wife and five kids. Noone points out this thinking would be “smuggling in my pity as a reason” for granting tenure.

This is also an example of how logic can apply to daily life. While much of the class discussion seems heady and esoteric, it is highly practical, says Noone. “This is a skills course,” he explains. “I’m teaching them how to reason. … This is a skill you can use across whatever discipline you’re in.” And it seems to be working. Not only are the students following along on this hot summer day, even leading some of the discussions, they’ve also applied what they’ve learned to life outside the classroom. For history major Doyle, who double majors in secondary education, “Logic will ensure that I am teaching students in a coherent way,” Maggard, who anticipates a career as a theologian, says logic helps him understand political discourse, and “to examine truth claims from any source in detail.”

Roy, who hosted a sports talk radio show on campus, says it even helps when you’re discussing preseason NFL games, speculating about the draft and trying to predict who will advance to the Super Bowl. “It teaches you to think critically and to immediately analyze the validity of an argument, no matter what you’re reading,” says Roy. “Even something about sports.”
choose a translation of the Bible, for example. A peek into any Catholic bookstore reveals a long shelf of different translations. Guiding readers in picking a good Bible is among the topics Father Parker tackles in the first section of this small, lively guide. He also takes apart some common preconceptions about the Bible that can keep people from reading it. Is it history or not? Should every word be taken literally? As Father Parker writes, “Is Moses anything more than a celluloid figure in a biblical epic that looks and sounds an awful lot like the late Charlton Heston?”

In the second section of the book, Father Parker locates Moses and other Old Testament figures in the cultural times of the writings, provides guidelines for reading the prophets, the psalms and the Book of Wisdom, and discusses the foundation of apocalyptic writings found throughout the Old (and the New) Testament.

Finally, in the third section, Father Parker takes readers into the world in which Jesus was born, places New Testament writings in their historical context, and offers an informed, straightforward discussion of the controversies fanned by authors such as Dan Brown regarding the “Gospels the Church left behind.”

Father Parker holds an M.A. from Catholic University in biblical studies, but as a director of many parish Bible study groups, he’s seen firsthand the agony that reading the Bible can cause in the uninitiated, particularly in the Old Testament’s first books, the Pentateuch. “Genesis starts off well with a majestic narrative of creation. It gets interesting, both in and outside the Garden of Eden, but then we hit the brakes at a genealogy or two,” he writes. “The stories about the patriarchs and Moses are appealing, but then we come to a halt again at the roadblock of guidelines for a couple of Jewish festivals. Before we can get back up to speed, we skid to a complete stop at a rockslide of laws that came down from a mountain in the Sinai desert... Should something be this hard to read?”

Reading that ancient text, says Father Parker, is indeed difficult, but the effort is more than worth it. “It is more than just a collection of laws about worship and sacrifices in a Temple that does not even exist anymore. It is a collection of family stories about people who struggled to understand what God was doing in their lives... and though today Christians are more comfortable with the New Testament, they are in danger of losing their roots if they skip over the stories of their ancestors in faith, in the Pentateuch, because it is too hard to read.”

A former editor in chief for Liguorian magazine who now directs the Redemptorists’ Desert House of Prayer in Tucson, Arizona, Father Parker has 35 years of experience as a pastor, associate pastor and teacher. He undertook the writing of Scripture 101 as part of his quest to “be a bridge between the very specialized research of the academics and the needs of ordinary people who want to understand how God’s Word affects their attitudes and choices.” Prospective readers of the Bible will find Father Parker’s 142-page book an invaluable and congenial guide.

Improvisation Starts Here

Nonmusicians might think that their church organist simply sits down and follows the music. But church organists know that they are often called on to play “ex tempore”— at certain times during Mass they must improvise to make sure that the liturgical action and the music are a tight fit. Improvising also provides the organist with ways to “set the tone” and thus enrich the celebration.

Church organists and students looking for practice in the elements that make for successful improvisation can turn to A Practical Approach to Improvisation for the Church Organist (Paraclete Press, 2010), written by composer, teacher and organist Robert C. Lau, who received his Ph.D. in musicology from Catholic University’s Benjamin T. Rome School of Music.

Lau became interested in improvising as a teenage church organist. During Communion, he says, he began to improvise. “It soon became obvious from the comments I received that many members of the congregation preferred my improvising on familiar hymn tunes.” His interest in improvisation led him to compose, teach, and to write this book. He offers the lessons in practical improvisation, he writes, as a way for organists who might be “reluctant to attempt” to improvise. The spiral-bound, 50-page book comprises seven lessons, the latter of which build upon skills developed by practicing and mastering techniques explained in earlier ones. Each lesson follows the same basic structure: an introduction, the score of a hymn, then explanations and musical examples for practicing certain improvisation techniques.

Now a professor at Penn State, Lau continues to compose, teach and improvise, “inspired by the reactions of members of my congregation who express their pleasure in my aiding their worship through music.” The practice and the practical advice contained in his book offer all organists the same opportunity. — C. C.
First Day at CUA

The Cardinal mascot poses with Virginia Harrington Braster, B.A. 1988, and her sons, CUA freshman Robert Collier and Daniel Collier, during First Day at CUA, an event for freshmen sponsored by the CUA Alumni Association.

Class of 2014 Welcomed at Summer Gatherings

Freshman send-off parties were held this past summer, hosted by alumni leaders in various cities. More than 250 incoming freshmen and their families gathered in Boston, New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Hyattsville, Md., and Arlington, Va., to chat about last-minute details concerning freshman year and meet some of their classmates.

The Catholic University community welcomes the new students and their families and offers hearty thanks to the following generous hosts of the send-off parties:

- Joe Della Ratta, B.A. 1953
- Vincent O’Neill, B.A. 1993
- Maureen and Brendan O’Reilly, both B.A. 1987
- Lynne Dardis Pesce, B.A. 2002

If you would like to host a party next summer, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-288-ALUM.

Does your class year end in a “1” or a “6”? If so, your class is celebrating a reunion next year during Homecoming and Reunions, Oct. 21–23, 2011. If you are interested in being a member of the reunion committee for your class, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-288-ALUM.

Give Us Your Ideas

Do you have an idea for an alumni event in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego? Or would you and your friends like to host a gathering of alumni in your hometown? Call the CUA Office of Alumni Relations at 202-319-5608 (800-288-ALUM outside the Washington, D.C., area). We’d love to hear from you!

Note: Dates and times are subject to change.
Check www.cuatoday.com for the latest details.
Homecoming and Reunions Weekend 2010
October 1–3, 2010
Dear Fellow CUA Alumni

It’s my honor and privilege to lead The Catholic University of America Alumni Association as president for the 2009–2011 term. The Board of Governors and I, as your representatives, are seeking meaningful ways to enhance the enduring relationship among alums, students and faculty in support of CUA.

Over the last few months, I’ve witnessed the passion, energy and tremendous pride that our students, alumni and faculty share. I’ve also been encouraged by the large numbers of alumni wanting to know how to become more involved with CUA and the Alumni Association. Please visit our online community at www.cuatoday.com. This exciting portal allows you to read about inspiring alumni accomplishments, find out about upcoming alumni activities, and learn about on-campus events, volunteer opportunities and much more.

CUA has gained tremendous momentum and increased recognition as the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. CUA is no longer a well-kept secret. Let’s continue this positive momentum by talking about our university and its many accomplishments with friends, colleagues and neighbors. Show your CUA pride by attending events, cheering for our teams, staying connected to each other and the university, and, of course, by donating your time and money to support CUA students.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, we would like to welcome John Garvey as the university’s new president. The future of CUA has never been brighter. Together we will continue this positive momentum to add to a legacy that will strengthen our reputation and maintain our core philosophy: Reason, Faith, Service.

— Guillermo Garcia, B.A. 1995

1. Alums from the Class of 1965 reminisce as they look through their yearbook during their class reunion party.

2. Alumni on campus for the weekend gathered with students and staff on Sunday morning for the annual Mass remembering all deceased alumni, particularly those from the Class of 1960.

3. Our newest Golden Cardinals — the Class of 1960 — flocked to campus for their 50th reunion. They were welcomed back on Friday and received their Golden Cardinal pins at a class dinner on Saturday. A Sunday brunch wrapped up a wonderful weekend of sharing laughter and fond memories.

4. Alumni from the Class of 1975 celebrate their 35th reunion

5. The famous pre-game party is always a weekend highlight. An estimated crowd of 800 alumni, friends and family gathered at Cardinal Stadium to kick off Homecoming Saturday.

6. Alumni and students cheer on the CUA Cardinals during the Homecoming football game.

7. Former members of the President’s Society together with President Garvey, Frank Persico and Suzanne McCarthy.

8. Members of the class of 1985 gather at the Halfway Home Party.

A Living Legacy: Following the Orientation Mass on Friday, Aug. 27, incoming freshmen and their family members who are CUA alums posed with CUA President John Garvey near the altar of the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
Donald P. Kommers, B.A., 1954 (A&S), of South Bend, Ind., has received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The award, Germany’s highest honor given to individuals for service to the nation, acknowledges Kommers’ 35 years of German-related scholarship in law and politics. Kommers is professor emeritus of law and Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Professor Emeritus of political science at the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Chris Sarandon Jr., M.F.A., 1967 (A&S), of Marina Del Rey, Calif., portrayed Abraham Lincoln in the PBS documentary “God in America.” Sarandon’s characterization of the Civil War president was seen in October as part of a six-hour documentary.

Ronald P. Frezzo, B.M. 1968, M.M. 1982 (MUSIC), of Silver Spring, Md., was named by the Maryland Music Educators Association as one of the three “Music Teachers of the Year” for the state of Maryland for 2010. He has been teaching for 40 years.


Robert Norman, B.A. 1974 (A&S), joins The Washington Group, a general agency of MassMutual, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., as assistant general agent and chief operating officer. He will manage product specialists and sales managers and oversee compliance and new business processing. He has worked within MassMutual’s corporate office for 20 years and as a general agent in metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P., M.S.N. 1976, Ph.D. 1987 (NURS), began his tenure in June as the first dean of Aquinas College’s 25-year-old nursing program in Nashville, Tenn. Previously, Brother Ignatius served as director of administration for the Dominican Friars in the Eastern Province in the United States, as well as the coordinator of the health care ethics program in the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York.

Hal Howland, M.A. 1977 (MUSIC), of Sugarloaf Key, Fla., has published the novel Landini Cadence (Black Rose Books) about Key West, Fla., homicide detective and part-time musician Rich Castillo and his solving of a string of murders.

John Niedzwecki, Ph.D. 1977 (ENGR), professor and holder of the R.P. Gregory ’32 Chair in Civil Engineering, has been named head of the Zachary Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University. He had been serving as the interim department head since August 2009. He also served as executive associate dean for the Dwight Look College of Engineering and associate agency director for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. He joined Texas A&M more than 30 years ago as an assistant professor and specializes in offshore civil engineering.

Gary Smucker, M.S.L.S. 1977 (LIS), retired from Alexandria City Public Schools. He was a teacher in the English as a Second Language Program and taught U.S. history for immigrant students at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va. He has been in education for 42 years and plans to continue by volunteering.

Margaret Williamson, M.A. 1977 (A&S), principal/chief administrator of Northwest Catholic High School, in West Hartford, Conn., has been named the Archdiocesan Distinguished Principal for 2010–11 by the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Hartford. She is the first secondary school administrator in the archdiocese to receive this award. In March 2009, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) dedicated the Girls’ State Basketball Tournament to her in honor of her long-term commitment to high school girls’ basketball as well as her dedication and support of all CIAC athletic programs.

William M. Garty, B.A. 1978 (A&S), an attorney in Nesconset, N.Y., has been appointed to the Admissions Management and Policy Board of the United States Coast Guard Academy.


Alan Moss, Ph.D. 1980 (A&S), of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., has published three books since 2000. His latest book and first novel, Island of Betrayal, was released in April (Gauthier Publications). It tells the story of a government economist caught up in a conspiracy in American Samoa.

Carmen Nanko-Fernandez, B.A. 1980 (A&S), M.A. 1984 (THEO), D.Min. 1991 (THEO), was promoted to associate professor of pastoral ministry and received tenure at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. She was also appointed director of the Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Degree Program in 2009–2010. In the spring, her second book Theologizing en Espanol: Context, Community, and Ministry (Orbis), was released.

Anita Ellen (Miller) Summers, M.S.W. 1982 (SOCVY), announces the graduation of her son Trey from high school and the retirement of her husband, William, from his job of 32 years in early June. She also has a 21-year-old daughter who is majoring in computer science at the University of Denver, as well as four stepchildren. They
moved to Tucson this summer to escape the Midwest winters.

Michael Robinson, B.F.A. 1983 (A&S), of Beverly Hills, Calif., was named executive director at the National Notary Association (NNA). Robinson, the association’s director of marketing and member services since mid-2009 and a veteran executive with experience leading membership-based organizations and strategic initiatives, has been elevated to the top NNA position to spearhead the drive for creating new opportunities for American notaries.

W. Taylor Johnson, B.A. 1984, M.F.A. 1986 (A&S), of Bethesda, Md., has been recognized by the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies as the first student in the world to earn a doctoral degree in liberal studies. He earned his degree at Georgetown University in May, writing his dissertation on “Shaping Better Physicians?: The Professional Ethic.” He has 25 years of experience in higher education administration, and is currently the director of biomedical graduate education at the Georgetown University Medical Center.

Katie Orrico, B.A. 1985 (A&S), was recognized with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons 2010 Distinguished Service Award, presented in May at the AANS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. This award honors Orrico for 25 years of advocacy efforts on behalf of organized neurosurgery. She is the director of the Washington Office of the AANS and Congress of Neurological Surgeons, a position she has held since 1997. She has represented the neurosurgery profession before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies since 1985.

Lisa Geis, B.A. 1988 (A&S), of Voorhees, N.J., received her juris doctor from Rutgers School of Law in May. She was awarded the Reed Smith Clinical Excellence Award for demonstrating excellence both in classroom work and in providing client representation in the Children’s Justice Clinic. She also received the Pro Bono Award for Significant Service for exceptional commitment to the pro bono ethic.

Letitia A. Long, M.S.E. 1988 (ENGR), was named director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Springfield, Va. She is the first woman to lead a major U.S. intelligence agency in the Department of Defense and assumed the position in August.

Kimberley A. Shellman-Borna, B.A. 1988 (A&S), J.D. 1993 (LAW), is the new chief executive officer of The Center for Children and Young Adults, a Georgia-based shelter dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment with comprehensive services for children and young adults who are abused, neglected or at risk. Prior to being chosen, she was executive director of the Juvenile Justice Fund.

Helen M. Alvaré, M.A. 1989 (THEO), has joined the Catholic Leadership Institute board of directors. Alvaré is an associate professor of law at the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Va. She serves as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Laity as well as a consultant for ABC News in the areas of women in the Catholic Church, religion in the public square and the papacy.

Brian Cashman, B.A. 1989 (A&S), general manager of the New York Yankees, was inducted into the Irish American Baseball Hall of Fame in August.

Frank T. Donaghue, B.A. 1990 (A&S), who served under three Pennsylvania attorneys general and helped lead the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board from its inception, joined Ballard Spahr as a member of its corporate and government investigations and white-collar defense practice and government relations and regulatory affairs practice groups in June. He left his position as interim deputy executive director of the Gaming Control Board to join the firm’s Philadelphia office.

James Christopher Munley, B.A. 1990 (A&S), a partner in Munley, Munley & Cartwright, earned the classification “AV Rated Attorney” by Martindale-Hubbell, a resource for information on the worldwide legal profession. The AV rating signifies that a lawyer has reached the heights of professional excellence. He lives in Clarks Summit, Pa., with his wife, Maria, and two children.


Kathryn Fitzpatrick, B.A. 1993 (A&S), of New York City, visited Jerusalem in April during a global management meeting of Fundtech Ltd., along with fellow CUA alumnus Joseph Auleenti, B.A. 1968 (A&S). Fitzpatrick serves as vice president of human resources and Auleenti is executive vice president and general counsel at Fundtech Ltd.

Patricia M. Chuh, J.D. 1996 (LAW), of Bethesda, Md., was promoted to partner at Wilkinson Barker Knauer, a Washington, D.C.-based communications and technology law firm. Chuh has extensive experience in broadcast regulation and policy matters.

Mindy Klasky, M.S.L.S. 1996 (LIS), of Arlington, Va., has written the book *When Good Wishes Go Bad*, the second novel of her “As You Wish” series, published in April (Mira Books). The plot: After her boyfriend skedaddles with $3.5 million belonging to the theater that employs her, a New York theater dramaturge finds a brass lamp containing a wish-granting genie.

Joycelyn Tate, J.D. 1997 (LAW), of Washington, D.C., is the host of Telecom Talk on the im4Radio Broadcasting Network. Telecom Talk is an Internet radio
segment that focuses on technology and telecommunications issues.

Michelle Datiles, B.A. 1998 (A&S), is program manager at the Foundation for Social and Cultural Advancement in Washington, D.C. Foundation SCA supports programs for the advancement of women through education access, professional training and character development in various countries, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, and on the African continent.

Jonathan Grella, M.A. 1999 (A&S), was named director of communications for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He came to the Bucs from Securing America’s Future Energy and its spin-off, the Electrification Coalition, where he served as senior vice president of communications and strategy. Grella has more than 10 years of experience in public relations, having also served as vice president of media relations at Edelman Public Relations.

’00s

Courtney Campbell, B.A. 2000 (A&S), recently relocated back to New York City after spending six years working in London. She gained knowledge and experience dealing in the European and Asian financial markets during her stint abroad and has returned to UBS New York to help run the International Equity Finance desk, which is based in New York City.

Sarah Cloonan, B.S.Arch. 2002 (ARCH), graduated with a master’s in architecture degree from Tulane University in May 2009 where she was also a recipient of the Malcolm Heard Traveling Fellowship. She is continuing her academic studies at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and recently completed a curatorial internship in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

Alexandre Abdoulaev, B.M. 2003, M.A. 2006 (MUSIC), a doctoral student in historical musicology at Boston University, has co-written the book Value and Judgment in Medieval Music: 4th–14th Centuries, published by Boston University’s School of Music. It is an annotated bibliography of medieval theoretical treatises on music.

Ashley P. Charbonnet, B.M. 2003 (MUSIC), of New Orleans received her M.F.A. in film directing and screenwriting from Columbia University in May. Her new movie The Price of Flowers premiered in April at the Columbia Film Festival, made its California debut in August, and was also shown at the 29th Annual Vancouver International Film Festival held in September-October.


Anne Marie Maguire, B.S. 2005 (A&S), of Mount Laurel, N.J., was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June. She is continuing her medical training in emergency medicine/family medicine at Aria Health in Philadelphia.

Weddings

Jeremy R. Moss, J.D. 2007 (LAW), was named assistant director of the FBI’s Cyber Division. He will be responsible for leading the FBI’s efforts to protect the United States against cyber-based attacks and high-technology crimes.

Patrick J. Timony, M.S.L.S. 2007 (LIS), of Washington, D.C., is a recipient of a 2010 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for Distinguished D.C. Government Employees. Timony is the lead librarian for adaptive technologies for the Adaptive Services Division of the D.C. Public Library system. Timony was recognized for his work in expanding services and making them more accessible to those with a wide range of disabilities.

1st Lt. Elizabeth “Beth” Midgette, B.A. 2008 (A&S), has been deployed to Afghanistan as a member of Combined Joint Task Force Paladin, the lead organization in the International Security Assistance Force’s counter-improvised explosive device strategy. She has been in the Army for two years and previously served as a platoon leader at Fort Hood, Texas, in the 46th Chemical Company. This will be her first deployment.


Meghan M. Doyle, B.A. 2006 (A&S), and Pedro Rivera, B.S. 2007 (A&S), were married on July 31. They live in Silver Spring, Md. Meghan is a third grade teacher and Pedro is a physical therapist.

Ian Swank, B.A. 2006 (A&S), and Lauren Russo, B.A. 2007 (A&S), were married on June 26. They live in Silver Spring, Md.

Births

Caroline Cruz Bodner, B.S.N. 1997 (NURS), and husband Daniel announce the birth of their third son, Kai Daniel, on Jan. 12. Kai is proudly welcomed by older brothers, Christian Kona, 3, and Maceo, 1. The family lives in Rockville, Md.


Brian Till, B.S. 1998 (A&S), and wife Cathee announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Kathleen, on June 25. The family lives in Seattle.


Kathryn “Katie” Dover Kleinhaus, B.A. 1999 (A&S), and Nicholas B. Kleinhaus B.A. 2001 (A&S), celebrate the addition of William Ferdinand Thomas to their family. Will was born on Dec. 16, 2009, and placed into their home and hearts on Jan. 9. The adoption was finalized on July 14. The family lives in Duncanville, Texas.

Rupali Chaudhuri, B.S.N. 2007 (NURS), and husband Ray announce the birth of their daughter, Rayna Anjali, on Jan. 8. She joins her brother, Arvin, 4. The family lives in New Orleans, where Rupali is pursuing her nurse practitioner degree.

Obituaries


Murray Louis Mayeux, M.A. 1948, of Bowling Green, Ohio, April 24, 2010.
Charlotte P. Murphy, J.D. 1948, of Bethesda, Md., April 19, 2010.
Sister Simone J. Cadorette, who attended the university from 1950 to 1955, of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, April 14, 2010.
Anne Rozier Bradshaw, J.D. 1952, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., April 7, 2010.
Anita M. Matson, B.M. 1966,
Freda Mary Oben, M.A. 1971, Ph.D. 1979, of Silver Spring, Md., July 8, 2010.

Former Faculty/Staff
Robert W. Ricks, M.A. 1960, Ph.D. 1967, M.M. 1971, professor emeritus of music, who taught and conducted at CUA for more than 40 years, of Chevy Chase, Md., June 20, 2010.

Patrick Cragin
Class of 2010
Musical Theatre
Appearing on Broadway in “Grease”

Your gifts made it possible.
To learn more, visit giving.cuatoday.com.
It’s 5:30 in the morning, pitch black and pouring rain, and I’m walking the dog wondering how my life went from zero to 60 in just a few short months. It’s one of those “gotcha” moments I’ve been having lately. On this weekday morning, my husband is out of town on business and I’ve left my kids Maura, Garrett and James (ages 9, 11 and 12) sleeping.

After 12 years as a stay-at-home mom, I went back to full-time work two months ago.

Now, in addition to getting three kids up and out of the house, I have to get myself ready for work. Instead of making three lunches, I’m making four — and all the while my head is buzzing about what I have going on at work while I’m hoping that we’ve got clean school uniforms for the day.

At 8 a.m., I see the kids off as they walk down the street to our local Catholic school. And then another one of those moments where I pause for just a second: Do I run back home to throw in a load of laundry or do I get into the car and head to work? I choose the laundry. And now I’m pushing it. But I arrive at work on time, sort of. I would be on time if not for the five minutes to climb the stairs.

My office is on the fourth floor of McMahon Hall. On Aug. 16, I started work in the newly created position of executive director of alumni relations at CUA. And on more than one occasion, I’ve had flashbacks of racing to class as I make my way up the seemingly endless McMahon stairs to get to work on time.

When our public affairs staff asked me to write the Alumni Essay for this issue of CUA Magazine, they convinced me this would be a good opportunity to introduce myself to the alumni community and to talk about the university’s renewed commitment to all of you, as evidenced by the creation of this new position. I accepted, and then they told me, “please make it personal.”
I first became interested in The Catholic University of America through my family’s close friendship with Rev. William J. Byron, S.J., CUA’s president from 1982 to 1992. My father had served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Scranton while Father Byron was president there years earlier. Once he was at CUA, Father Byron urged me to come out and take a tour. I’m not sure it would have been on my radar screen otherwise. But I’m glad I took a look. Attending CUA was one of the best decisions I ever made.

I not only got my B.A. in Greek and Latin, but also an M.A. in Education Administration. I met my husband Tom — an alum with a B.S. in computer science — at CUA. Early in my career, I worked in alumni relations for six years, starting as assistant director and working my way up to director. I decided to leave the full-time workforce when my first child was born. During my time home with the kids, I also worked as a language tutor and substitute teacher, took on contract projects for CUA’s alumni relations office and was an active volunteer at my children’s school. As our oldest child neared high school age, Tom and I had started talking about me going back to work. But we were thinking maybe in another year or two.

Then I got the call from my former boss Frank Persico, who is CUA’s vice president for university relations and chief of staff. He told me about the university’s desire to step up efforts to serve and engage the alumni community. While our current staff was doing a great job, he said, they were already working at maximum speed. So the decision was made to back up the university’s goal by adding to the staff the new position of executive director. He wanted me to know about this opportunity.

I did apply for the job, and when it became clear that I was in the running, Tom and I wondered, “Can we really do this?” But then we thought, “How could I turn down the opportunity to come back to this place that I love and that has been a part of my life for the past 25 years?” In the end, it was an offer I couldn’t refuse. We decided we would make it work — somehow. Returning to full-time employment has been worth the extra effort it takes to balance work and family life.

In addition to the adjustments at home, I found I had to adjust to a changed workplace. Most of our communication with alumni is now through e-mail, Facebook and Twitter. Twelve years ago, we were still stamping our mail. And 12 years ago, I didn’t instinctively stop what I was doing every day at 3:15 to call the kids to make sure everyone got home OK, they’re getting a snack and starting homework, the dog has been let out, and they know when the soccer carpool is coming.

Other than that stopping point in my day, I have found it relatively easy to focus on the priorities of my new job — better engaging our constituency of 82,000; enhancing career networking, both for new graduates and for those who are already in the marketplace; growing our chapters and helping alumni connect more easily through schools, year of graduation, and geographical location; and working on more meaningful programming to meet our alumni’s business, social, and spiritual interests.

On a recent Saturday at 7:30 in the morning, I went into my 9-year-old’s room to say goodbye before I headed to the university. I knew it would be after midnight when I returned home and I wanted to wake the kids before I left to get them squared away for a busy Saturday of soccer games and other activities. Confused, she asked me what day it was and I told her Saturday. “But you don’t work on Saturdays,” she said a bit unhappily. Another “gotcha” moment. I was torn. As much as I wanted to spend the weekend at home with my family, I was also excited to be headed to campus for Homecoming and Reunions.

Being among so many alumni was fulfilling and energizing, and it made the day-to-day work of my job more meaningful. I’ve yet to meet a single alum who does not have an interesting story. People love CUA and there is no better place than at Homecoming and Reunions weekend to witness that.

Now that the preparations for Homecoming and the whirl of the weekend events are behind us, my colleagues and I in the Office of Alumni Relations are refocusing on our outreach efforts to all of you. As I continue to settle into the new position, I have no doubt that I will pause every day at 3:15. I will probably never achieve a perfect balance (if there is such a thing). On any given day, the scale may tip dramatically in one direction or the other. But I am happy to say there are more and more days where I feel like I’m getting pretty close.
Actress Gets Rave Review

Thank you for the article by Richard Wilkinson about a remarkably talented woman, Siobhan Fallon Hogan (Summer 2010). She is a rare example of someone in the “Industry” who actually practices respect and regard for our Catholic faith in her life choices, both professionally and personally, even while exuding a light-hearted self-deprecation.

To see her even momentarily in performance, such as on “Seinfeld,” is the opportunity to enjoy a very gifted talent. She is amazing in her ability to take but a few lines, as she did when playing Elaine’s roommate on “Seinfeld,” and create a hilariously daft and unique character. Even her too-small appearance in “Forrest Gump” was terrific as she can mine comedy out of situations which in the hands of other actors would simply fall flat.

I was completely enthralled by her one-woman show, which I saw years ago in L.A., not only by the magnitude of her talent and how funny the show was but by the Hollywood heavyweights she drew to the audience. Jerry Seinfeld himself was there as were other performers.

Saying hello to this wonderful actress after the show was so much fun — she is delightful in person with that quality of a “farm-fresh mix of warmth and sarcasm” so perfectly described and quoted in the article regarding her unique style as an actor. Really, what other actor could so deftly manage such a marvelously strange combination with as much consistency? Fallon makes it look effortless.

By the way, the incident with Professor James Waring designating her quite bluntly as a character actress rather than an ingénue made me bristle with the memory of my own days as a drama student. The atmosphere at the Hartke Theatre, which was never one to coddle its young performers, was invaluable.

Though to merely focus on her talent would be worthwhile, Wilkinson managed to also make known the more unusual issue about how she makes choices in work which are respectful of the Catholic faith. To achieve this anywhere today is difficult, but to do it in the entertainment industry is extremely impressive. While the profile of Fallon Hogan can inspire those in the arts, may her example of staying true to her faith as a Catholic in her career inspire more of us in our hearts and in our own professional choices.

Elizabeth Ann Molo
B.A. 1974
Los Angeles, Calif.

One More Cheer For Ed

Thanks Maureen McElroy (Fall 2009) and Michael Cohen Mace (Summer 2010, Letters) for adding their stories of Ed McMahon to my wonderful memories of CUA. McMahon was involved in another adventure at that time involving our new Rathskeller. This revolutionary establishment was quite controversial for the time because it introduced legal beer to the campus and, for that reason, was greatly anticipated by the students. It was located in the basement of the old student center (today’s Father O’Connell Hall) and required many months of careful planning to achieve the right bohemian atmosphere.

My colleagues and I in student government asked McMahon to officiate at the grand opening of the Rathskeller during his visit to campus for a homecoming weekend, which he heartily agreed to do. When McMahon arrived on campus on the rainy morning of the dedication, we proudly escorted him over to the Rathskeller for a preview. He walked in, stopped in his tracks at the front door, and bellowed in his familiar stentorian voice, “This just won’t do.” There was nothing jocular about his demeanor and we were, of course, shocked.

It seems that the beer taps and signs jauntily placed around the hall were not of the Clydesdale type associated with the great businessman. McMahon demanded a phone. Trucks soon rolled in and by the evening’s opening, all signs, beer taps, kegs and accessories of our carefully planned beer hall were removed and replaced with the Budweiser variety. One phone call was all it took. It was a great opening event.

Thomas Wieckowski
Ph.D. 1975
Wyncote, Pa.
A Life of Faith and Art

Sister Mary Trinitas Morin, S.P., M.F.A. 1952, (commonly known as Sister Trinitas) taught and created art for 33 years at the College of Great Falls (now a university) in Montana. Central to her art was love of God, exemplified by this figure of Christ on the cross. She carved the four-foot Christ from white pine given by her father, a lumberyard owner. The crucifix, framed by 11,000 gold, black, white and brown mosaic tiles, made and set by Sister Trinitas and her art students, is the focal point in the university’s chapel, which was dedicated to Sister Trinitas in 1993. She died in 1965 at age 57. Next to the chapel, the Galerie Trinitas exhibits her oil paintings, watercolors, weaving, ceramics, fabric art, mixed media, hand-carvings, enameling, graphic arts, silverwork and silk screening.

In 1959, Sister Mary Trinitas breaks ground for the new art building at the then College of Great Falls.

Photo above: Phillip Spears
CUA's Presidential Inauguration

The Mass and installation ceremony of John Garvey as the University's 15th President will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m. in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Great Upper Church.

CUA alumni are invited to share in the celebration. A limited number of reserved seats are available to alumni. If you would like reserved seating, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-288-ALUM, or register online at www.cuatoday.com.