

# The CARLOW Sun

A Publication for the Carlow University Community

## Carlow's Winter Commencement Ceremony Is a Day of Achievement and Hope

Commencement is always a day to celebrate the achievements of the past, while looking to the future.

The Carlow University graduates and their guests who attended the Baccalaureate Mass in the Sisters of Mercy Chapel at 10:30 a.m., and the Winter Commencement ceremony at 1:00 p.m., heard messages that celebrated their accomplishments, while encouraging them to hold fast to the values they have discovered through their education, so that they may have the courage to face the future with hope.

"Through your education at Carlow University, you've been trained to sort out values ... what it is that is lasting and binding and what is the chaff that can be set aside," said Bishop William J. Winter, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh (retired), as he addressed the graduates during his homily. "Today, my prayer for you, as you go forward with the education you received here at Carlow, is that you look forward, because of these values, with a spirit of hope ... for a future of hope."

The Honorable Cynthia Baldwin, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice, built further upon the theme of hope in her keynote address during the Commencement ceremony. After both Dr. Mary Hines and Helen Hanna Casey, chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed all present to the ceremony, Dr. Hines introduced Justice Baldwin. "Cynthia Baldwin, honored as a 2004 Carlow University Woman of Spirit®, embodies fine principles, intelligence, and integrity—attributes which have shaped not only her professional life, but which have also positively shaped the lives

of so many," said Dr. Hines. "In her courtroom and in her life, the goals of justice, of mercy, and of respect for voices of those in need guide her decisions and make her an exceptional role model and leader. Justice Cynthia Baldwin has not only recognized the necessities that cry out for intervention, but now leads in ways that the Sisters of Mercy, the founders of Carlow University, would embrace and applaud."

In her address, Justice Baldwin cited many depressing statistics that show a world turning away from values and education. Nevertheless, she encouraged the graduates not to lose hope even as they expect to face adversity.

"The future is a challenge," said Justice Baldwin. "Yet we must all face these challenges. We cannot afford to stand on the sidelines and watch the game of life without playing."

Justice Baldwin, the first African American female judge of Allegheny County's Court of Common Pleas, was nominated by Governor Edward G. Rendell to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve an interim term in December 2005, and was overwhelmingly confirmed by the Senate on February 15, 2006. She will serve through January 2008.

"We are facing a world in need of conscience, compassion, and control," she said, indicating that one of the challenges the 2006 graduates will face is the temptation to do less than their best—just enough to get by.

"We must do the right thing," she said, quoting a passage from a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "We call this ethics. Do your best even when no one is watching. Character, integrity, and reputation ... These are words that leaders not only use but understand."

Graduate degrees were awarded to students in nursing, education, professional leadership, professional counseling, and management and technology. Additionally, the occasion marked the graduation of the first student to earn a Masters of Fine Arts degree in creative writing—Juilene Osborne-McKnight. Undergraduate degrees were awarded in arts and sciences, as well as in education, social work, and nursing. In all, 153 students received master's or bachelor's degrees.



Auxiliary Bishop William J. Winter addresses graduates at the Baccalaureate Mass.



The Honorable Cynthia Baldwin gives Commencement address.



Dr. Mary Hines conferred diplomas upon Carlow graduates.



Carlow grads prepare to receive diplomas.

# Author and Teacher First Graduate from Carlow University's MFA Program

Published Author Juilene Osborne-McKnight Began Path to Her MFA in January 2005

Juilene Osborne-McKnight was the first student to graduate from Carlow University's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing program. On Saturday, January 20, 2007, she walked in Carlow's Winter Commencement ceremony in the Rosemary Heyl Theatre in Antonian Hall.



Juilene Osborne-McKnight (left) and Dr. Ellie Wymard

"This was the best academic gift I ever gave myself in my whole life," said

Osborne-McKnight, referring to Carlow's MFA program. "I've made friendships here that will last a lifetime. They cross all age barriers. I consider Dr. Ellie Wymard [director of the MFA program] to be an angel for all writers."

Osborne-McKnight is the author of four critically acclaimed novels: *I Am of Irelaunde* (2000), *Daughter of Ireland* (2002), *Bright Sword of Ireland* (2004), and *Song of Ireland* (2006). A teacher for more than two decades, she has worked as a newspaper stringer and as a magazine and newspaper columnist. She has also trained as a traditional storyteller, or seanchai, in the ancient Irish tradition.

Osborne-McKnight took her MFA in poetry and creative nonfiction at the sister colleges of Carlow University, Pittsburgh, and St. Patrick-Carlow College in Carlow, Ireland. She completed an MA in Celtic and Native American Writing at Antioch University. Currently, she

Core Value: Student Progress and Leadership

teaches "Celtic and Native American Myth" and "Culture and Creative Writing" at DeSales University in Center Valley, located north of Philadelphia in eastern Pennsylvania.

"A few months before the MFA program's first semester, I received a phone call from Juilene and she said she'd be perfect for this program. And she was," said Dr. Wymard. "The residencies in Pittsburgh and Ireland gave her the opportunity to work with both Irish and American writers."

Osborne-McKnight, who considers herself first and foremost a storyteller, concentrated on poetry and created a manuscript of 60 poems that she fittingly titles *Storyteller*.

"The advice I'd give other writers is, first, to read voraciously. Read in your genre. Read outside of your genre. Read as if your life depended on it," she said. "Second, give yourself the freedom ... not to expect perfection from yourself on your first draft. Third, remember that a really tough editor will make you a better writer."

Carlow University's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is a low-residency international program designed for students who want to be professional writers, to teach creative writing at the college level, or to enjoy the satisfaction of writing and reading in an individualized program. It requires five semesters and 36 credits. Four semesters begin with an intensive 11-day residency at either Carlow University in Pittsburgh or St. Patrick-Carlow College in Carlow, Ireland. At the end of each residency, students spend five months writing and reading in their chosen genre under the supervision of the professional writer with whom they worked during residency. The student-to-faculty ratio is 5:1.

## "God's Chef," Robert Moore Sr.

The Carlow community celebrated the life of Robert Moore Sr. on Monday, January 22, 2007, in Tiernan Hall. Moore, who had celebrated his 73rd birthday in October, died suddenly on November 30, 2006.



The family of Robert Moore Sr. gather at his memorial service.

It was only fitting that the service was held in the cafeteria as this was where Moore, who had worked as a chef in Carlow's food service for 33 years, nurtured and nourished the Carlow community.

"How appropriate to gather in the midst of food, near the salad bar, smelling the aromas, where for 33 years, Mr. Moore fed us, nourished us, and welcomed us," said Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, director of Campus Ministry, who led the memorial.

After the Welcome and the Gathering song, members of Moore's family gave readings reflecting on their father, brother-in-law, and brother. A man of faith, a protector, a role model, a provider—were just a few of the words of remembrance that described the life of Robert Moore Sr.

But it was perhaps, Steve, Robert Moore Sr.'s son, who crystallized all of these characteristics into a poignant image of his father.

"He taught me how to be a father and a husband," Steve said. "He was the one to watch; he was the one to ask for advice. He wasn't just a chef, I see him as God's chef."

Moore's sister-in-law, Delores, spoke of Moore's dedication to work. "He just loved to work. He used to say, 'Can't miss a day. Gotta go to work.'"

Friends and co-workers of Moore shared how he was a father figure, a role model—one whom everyone loved, and one who will be terribly missed in the months to come.

Dr. Patrick Joyce, vice president of Advancement and Government Relations noted that Moore was more than a chef, "He was an artist," said Joyce. "He created wonderful meals out of common ingredients."

Using the story of Jesus and the five loaves of bread and two fishes to feed thousands, Sister Mary drew a parallel to Moore's life, how he touched generations, maybe thousands of people, through feeding the Carlow community.

In closing Sister Mary encouraged family, friends and coworkers to continue to share their stories of Robert Moore Sr.

"Stories provide a way through grief," she said. "Stories bring healing. Tell the stories he gave us, was for us, and grief will give way to laughter and beautiful memories."

Core Value: Sacredness of Creation



NEW CERAMICS

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## New Ceramics' Cover Article by Carlow's Art Department Chair and Potter, Dale Huffman

In "Spiritual Home"—the cover article of the November/December 2006 edition of *New Ceramics* (the English version of the German magazine *Neue Keramik*)—Dale Huffman, chair of Carlow's Art Department and potter reflects upon the paradigm shift in his work from a functional and marketing approach to one that is holistic, aesthetic, and intuitive.

Since the late '70s, Huffman had been working in the Chinese school of pottery, as is the norm for most potters, mastering the art and skill of throwing perfectly symmetrical, porcelain pots. Pristine. Even. Round. These were the attributes that he tried to achieve.

Huffman's interest in ceramics piqued while pursuing his MFA at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in glass blowing, where he took an equal number of classes in both mediums. After a short stint blowing glass after graduation, Huffman began to focus exclusively on ceramics because it was a more tactile art.

"I'm a tactile person and wanted to handle what I was working on. But it wasn't an easy transition," says Huffman. "There were times when I barely survived financially. Still, I knew I had to do it."

After throwing pots for the next 25 years, Huffman started feeling constricted by the direction his art was taking. He felt limited by the form. His work just wasn't saying what he wanted it to say.

"Working in the studio for 20-plus years, I felt more like a designer craftsman, not a potter," says Huffman. "I wanted to rethink how pots were made beyond the Chinese paradigm. I wanted to move away from an intellectual approach to a more intuitive mode."

Serendipitously, in 1996, Huffman attended a five-week International Workshop for Ceramics in Tokoname City, Japan, one of the six most ancient Japanese pottery centers known as the Six Old Kilns. At these ancient sites, potters have been throwing and firing pots in wood kilns for more than 900 years. Here, clean, simple, round, glazed pots seemed stilted, out of place, even uninteresting to Huffman compared to the Japanese tradition of uneven pots with cracks

and tool marks, fired without glaze in wood kilns. “In Japan, clay and life were integrated. When you told people you were a potter, they would bow,” says Huffman. “Being surrounded by great pots and tradition, I reached a point of understanding about what pottery is about.”

Immersed in the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi —beauty that is imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete—Huffman had what he describes as an “A-ha” experience.

“When I went to Japan, I was standing on the edge of a cliff and couldn’t go back,” says Huffman. “It was like the last stop on the train. I had to get off. I had to jump. It was perfect timing.”

The transformation complete, Huffman returned to Pittsburgh, tore down his gas kiln, built a wood kiln, and began a new relationship with clay—a dialectical approach that is more of a dialogue between potter and clay, a partnership, one that sees the clay as part of the process, not just the thing to be manipulated and controlled.

It was a risky step. During his years in Pittsburgh, Huffman had established himself as a marketable potter. His pots were recognized and sold well. This dramatic shift to throw and fire pots in an entirely different fashion could have meant that he would



Dale Huffman

lose some clientele. “I was a little scared at first, moving from the functional to the purely aesthetic,” Huffman says. “Pottery in the Japanese tradition is rough, textured, grittier, right brain, intuitive—the polar

opposite of looking at clay through the Chinese paradigm. But what I wanted to explore was the aesthetic, not the functional. All artists want to sell their work, but artists also want to make what they want to make—even if they have to make sacrifices to do that.”

Now, just a little more than 10 years since Huffman’s trip to Japan, the paradigm shift that he experienced is still gaining momentum. His pots have more to say; there’s more to explore visually. Nor has the shift from the Chinese paradigm to the Japanese paradigm had a negative impact on his ability to make a living as a potter. Huffman says he does his best work in the intuitive mode—and it sells.

“I see myself more as the medium in the creation of the pots rather than the author with a capital A,” says Huffman. “Now I allow things to happen more than attempting to control what happens.”

“I am still learning,” he says. “I think it may take 15 to 20 years to understand this process. There are so many variables—the sound and look of flames, rhythm of the kiln, weather, atmosphere, kind of wood, the amount of wood . . . It’s chaos really, but I am part of the process.”

*An excerpt of Huffman’s article can be found on the New Ceramics’ Web site at [www.neue-keramik.de/english/magazine/m-current-6-06.htm](http://www.neue-keramik.de/english/magazine/m-current-6-06.htm).*

*Dale Huffman’s pots are available at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, at Huffman’s studio on Smallman Street by appointment, and the ClayPlace in Carnegie, Pa.*

*Huffman’s exhibit, “Postcards from Denmark,” can be seen on the 5th floor of Grace Library.*

**Core Value: Discover/Quest, Scaredness of Creation**

## Carlow Education Faculty and Students Well Represented at Area Conference

Carlow University was well represented at the 42nd Annual Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) Conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on December 2, 2006.

“This early childhood education conference draws more than 1,200 early childhood professionals each year,” says Roberta Schomburg, PhD, director of the School of Education. “Our education faculty and graduate students were featured prominently as presenters.”

Schomburg made three presentations at the conference: “The Power of Play: The Role of Play in Early Childhood Classrooms,” which explored the value of play in promoting social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development in young children; “Come Do the Math: Logical and Mathematical Thinking in Young Children-Preschool”; and “Come Do the Math: Logical and Mathematical Thinking in Young Children—Kindergarten/Primary,” which explored methods of teaching math to young children.

Christina Shorall, EdD, associate professor, School of Education, presented “Driving Little Miss Daisy: How to Motivate the Unmotivated Child,” which provided methods for teachers who wish to encourage academic success in school-age children who have previously shown little interest in learning. Adjunct faculty member Judy Abrams, program director of the Cyert Center for Early Education at Carnegie Mellon, presented a workshop titled “The Reggio Emilia Approach: Inspiring Our Professional Imagination,” which focused on the fundamental principles of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education.

Graduate alumna Maryah Spahr, an education advisor with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, presented a workshop titled “It’s the Little Things,” which showed how the activities and behaviors caregivers do every day make a big difference in the lives of children. Graduate student Veronica Slain, a teacher at The Campus School of Carlow University, presented a workshop titled “A Literature-based Integrated Curriculum Model,” which used a hands-on approach to literature, songs, and the creative arts to expand. Six current Carlow graduate students in education—Ariane Burke, Marla Dixon-Mason, Dhana King, Melissa Rambo, Deneen Rollins, Janelle Waag—presented a workshop titled “Organizing Your Play Environment,” which focused on selecting play materials and creating an environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, and positive attitudes toward learning.

Additionally, it should be noted that both Linda Wagner, PAEYC’s president, and Michelle Figlar, PAEYC’s executive director, are both adjunct faculty members in early childhood education at Carlow University.

**Core Value: Leadership and Service**

## Board of Trustees Approves Purchase of New Administrative Computing System

Carlow is moving forward on selecting a new administrative computing system to replace CARS, which has been in use since the early ’90s. The Board of Trustees voted to approve the purchase of a new system at their retreat on November 27, 2006.

As noted by Dr. Mary Hines, president of Carlow University, and Jacqueline Travisano, vice president of finance and operations, in their joint e-mail dated December 1, 2006.

“Carlow’s current administrative computing system, CARS, is lacking the current technology needed to be as efficient as possible in today’s computing environment. There has long been desire to replace the system; however, the resources to purchase and implement the system were unavailable until now. As Carlow’s financial strength steadily improves, so does our ability to finance major and necessary improvements such as this new system.”

**Core Value: Student Progress**

An administrative systems team, led by Karen Sturgeon, assistant vice president for information technology, is currently evaluating two possible vendors, SCT/Banner and Datatel/Colleague. Both companies were on campus on Jan 16,17 and January 23,24,25, respectively, and met with administrative departments to showcase their products.

According to Travisano, the total estimated cost of this project is approximately \$1.8 to \$2.4 million dollars, depending upon the vendor and platform selected.

“This is a solid investment for the University,” says Travisano. “The new system will improve efficiency in operations, enhance communication, and streamline procedures.”

The goal is that by March of this year, a vendor will be selected and implementation of the new administrative computing system will begin in July 2007.

## Tachoir Is the New Addition in Human Resources

Evan Tachoir is not just the new face in Carlow University’s Human Resources Department, but—as anyone who attended the Carlow Community Christmas Party on December 19, 2006 will attest—he is the new voice, too.



Evan Tachoir, the new Carlow employee in Human Resources Department.

“I had always wanted to work in human resources and I wanted to work at a college or university because I liked the friendly, community-like work environment it provided,” says Tachoir, whose introduction to many people in the Carlow community occurred when he volunteered to emcee, and be the first Christmas karaoke singer, at the community party. “This job brought the two together, so it was somewhat of a perfect fit for me.”

Tachoir, who worked as a team leader for the Target store in Greensburg, Pa., before coming to Carlow, graduated from Clarion University in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, and a dual major in business management and industrial relations with a minor in economics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

“Carlow is a good school. It’s not quite as noisy and crowded as I thought it would be for a university,” he says. “I work with a great team, and everyone has been very welcoming and supportive. It is a good community that has helped me grow.”

While at Clarion, Tachoir was involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including the Student Senate, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, where he was a student Bible study leader, the Society for the Advancement of Management, the Society of Human Resources Management, Beta Gamma Sigma (an accredited business honorary fraternity), the Residence Hall Council, Koinonia Christian Fellowship, and the Koinonia Dance Concert. In addition, he was the first winner of the “Clarion Idol” competition, Clarion’s version of the American Idol television program.

“I’ve always been good on stage. Something I’ve been blessed with is being able to work a crowd,” Tachoir says. “I won the “Clarion Idol” competition by rapping, not singing, and since they don’t allow rappers on American Idol yet, (sorry Carlow!) you won’t see me on TV anytime soon.”

*Core Value: Hospitality*

## Discovering Your Winning Mind-Set Focus of Grad School Event

Reclaiming life’s passion and purpose in the midst of pressure to be perfect in the multitude of roles women are expected to play was the focus of “Discover Your Winning Mind-Set: A New Year, A New You,” a professional development and networking event sponsored by the Carlow University Graduate School masters programs in business administration, management and technology, and professional leadership, held Wednesday, January 24, 2007, at The Rivers Club, downtown.

The speaker for the event, Leanne Meyer, is the principal in the leadership and identity development company, DivanationTM, Inc., and president of the U.S. arm of the South African change-resiliency firm, Mindman Inc. Meyer, a native of South Africa who now lives in Pittsburgh, believes her calling is to help people make sense of their lives through the reclamation of passion and purpose.

“Leanne Meyer’s talent is her sense of passion and purpose and her ability to share that with others,” says Cindy Rothenberger, PhD, dean of the Graduate School at Carlow. “I think we all came away with a renewed commitment to staying true to what’s really meaningful in our lives.”

Meyer asked those in attendance to reflect on their lives, identify the various roles for which they find themselves responsible, and to change their perspective from a mind-set of roles and responsibilities to one of relationships and responses. This new outlook, Meyer says, will help women focus on their actual skills, beliefs, and style to develop a vision of the leaders they can be. There were indications that the message was received loud and clear.

More than 40 people attended the event at The Rivers Club, which, in addition to hearing Meyer speak, was promoted as an opportunity for networking among Carlow faculty, alumnae/i, staff, students, and the Pittsburgh business community.

*Core Value: Leadership*

## Carlow Athletics Ushers in New Era with Basketball Webcasts

Carlow University Athletic Director George Sliman admits that he gets nervous whenever one of the Carlow University teams plays a tight game, but his butterflies before the basketball game on January 5, 2007—between the visiting Houghton College Highlanders and the home team Carlow Celtics—had more to do with a first for Carlow Athletics.

“With the help of the Management Science Associates (MSA) Sports Network, we were able to produce the first webcast of a Carlow game,” says Sliman. “We think this will be a new opportunity to allow our fans and alums to follow the team, and maybe to recruit other student athletes.”

The MSA Sports Network, which evolved from the Nauticom Sports Network, is a division of MSA and one of Pittsburgh’s fastest growing high-tech companies. The MSA Sports Network is recognized as the official high school sports network of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) with exclusive audio and Internet rights for all WPIAL Playoff and Championship games. Carlow University has been one of the sponsors for the MSA Sports Network broadcasts for the past two years. This year, Carlow Athletics decided to make use of another feature MSA Sports Network offers—something that 14 colleges or

universities across four states have found beneficial for their athletic programs—Internet webcasts of varsity games.

Because the webcasts require a dedicated land phone line to connect to MSA Sports, Carlow Athletics will only be able to broadcast volleyball or basketball games that take place in St. Joseph Hall. The January 5 webcast was the first attempt to use this technology.

Sliman and Carlow communication major Duriee Thomas shared play-by-play duties, and Drew Wilson, assistant director, Communications and Community Relations, provided some color commentary and read a few commercials during the webcast of what was a hard fought game that left Carlow on the short end of a 54–50 score.

“All in all, I think we worked together well,” says Thomas. “I’m excited about it and looking forward to our next broadcast.”

Reviews from listeners were also very positive.

“I listened to the webcast and thought it was great,” says Katie Pisowicz, a former Celtics basketball player. “I know it was a tough loss, but I really enjoyed listening to the game. If only the game could have ended at the half. Regardless, I hope that there are more webcasts in the future.”

*Core Values: Sacredness of Creation and Student Progress*

## On-Campus Events Calendar

### Rummage Sale for Alternative Spring Break

January 31–February 6, 2007

All Day

Frances Warde Hall Assembly Room

### Enchanted April, Carlow University Theatre

February 1–3, 8–10, 2007

8 p.m.

Rosemary Heyl Theatre, Antonian Hall

Contact: Theatre Department x6652

### I Have a Dream, Theatre IV/I

February 7, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Rosemary Heyl Theatre, Antonian Hall

Contact: Theatre Department x6652

### College to Career Event

February 8, 2007

5 p.m.

107/Atrium AJ Palumbo Hall

of Science and Technology

Registration deadline: February 2, 2007

Contact: Center for Career Enrichment x6067

### Cinderella, American Theatre Arts

February 15, 2007

10 a.m.

Rosemary Heyl Theatre, Antonian Hall

Contact: Theatre Department x6652

### The Carlow Hill Education Center Reception

February 15, 2007

6 p.m.

The St. Agnes Center of Carlow University

Contact: Carlow Hill Education Center x6472

### “What Not To Wear: Modern Woman and Dress Reform in 19th Century Art”

Sylvia Rhor, Assistant Professor, Art History

February 21, 2007

12:15

206 Aquinas Hall

Contact: Katie Hogan x6391

### Carlow University Dance Show

February 22 and 23, 2007

8 p.m.

Rosemary Heyl Theatre, Antonian Hall

The *Carlow Sun* aims to enhance communication among the Carlow community in accordance with the mission and core values of the University. We, in Communications and Community Relations, appreciate your feedback and suggestions, and invite you to submit your news, events, or story ideas by contacting Drew Wilson at [wilsonag@carlow.edu](mailto:wilsonag@carlow.edu). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. The *Carlow Sun* is available on Carlow’s Web site at [www.carlow.edu](http://www.carlow.edu).

The *Carlow Sun* is produced by the staff of Communications and Community Relations, 6th Floor, Antonian Hall, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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Values. Scholarship. Vision.