Dear Friends,

In early June, I was joined by our board chair, Dot Davis, our Trustees, donors, students, faculty and staff for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated St. Joseph’s Athletic and Fitness Center. This completely refurbished building is a beautiful and high performing addition to campus life for our athletes and students’ health and fitness needs. The green outside St. Joe’s will be re-landscaped in the coming weeks, and I invite you to visit us soon to see the campus.

Together with the new Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning that opened last fall, we are grateful for your support, and particularly that of the Rita McGinley Foundation. It assures that Carlow continues to move forward, providing our students with excellence in both their academic and total campus experiences, whether on ground or online.

This is foremost on our minds and embedded in our strategic planning, which is currently underway with a focus on the next five years. Students need programs that provide them with the knowledge and education they need for the future they will be entering—both now for their chosen careers and for new careers that don’t yet exist—in addition to learning experiences that prepare them for a changing workforce and leading a purpose-driven life.

At Carlow, our promise is to provide them with the skills, education and values of a liberal arts education as well as the professional preparation to make them highly effective, ethical leaders in a rapidly changing world. In the fall we will announce a number of new programs we are developing that build upon our strengths and prepare students for professions that will be in high demand for years to come. These programs will be delivered with our promised infusion of the strength of the liberal arts, underscoring values to form the leaders of the future.

Our partnerships with the business community through the new College of Professional Studies have affirmed the critical importance of the liberal arts—critical thinking, writing and speaking skills remain in high demand, and integrating these with professional skills, particularly for adult students, will continue to grow our strength and leadership of the adult and graduate market and our important place in Oakland’s “Innovation District.”

The Social Justice Institutes have received a stronger than ever call to duty this past year as racism and anti-Semitism created anguish in our community. We are taking up that call, as we always have, and are leading with a message about compassion and mercy, action and collaboration. The Atkins Endowed Center for Ethics is at the forefront in this mantle of promoting dialogue about ethical issues and justice across all peoples.

When the 2019-20 academic year gets underway in the fall, Carlow will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of our founding as an academic institution by the Sisters of Mercy. We will mark this milestone throughout the year with service projects, special events and opportunities to re-commit ourselves to graduating students who are dedicated to creating a just and merciful world. This is the foundational element that distinguishes the Carlow graduate. I hope you will find an opportunity to join us at one or more of the celebrations and join us in renewing this commitment to making a positive mark on our world.

As always, I appreciate all the support we receive from our alumni and friends to educate the next generation of leaders at all levels of their academic and career development. Thank you for building on the Carlow University legacy of creativity, excellence, values and service to our community and world.

Sincerely,

Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD
Carlow University Magazine is published twice a year by Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 412.578.2091. ©2018 by Carlow University. It is distributed free to university alumni and friends. It is also available on Carlow’s website at www.carlow.edu. Please send change of address correspondence to the above address or email advancementservices@carlow.edu. Letters to the editor or any other communications regarding the content of Carlow University Magazine are welcomed and may be sent to marketing@carlow.edu or the above address.

Carlow University, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the university prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the university will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the university’s mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in university programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the university and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

SUMMER 2019

DEPARTMENTS

01 Letter from the President
03 Places and Spaces
04 Noted and Quoted
05 Coffeehouse
28 Getting Social
30 Athletics
32 Alumni Activities

NEWS

06 3333 Fifth

FEATURES

12 Commencement 2019
16 Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow putting restorative justice into practice
17 Branching out: Social Justice Institutes
18 Carlow’s liberal arts curriculum preparing students for successful careers
20 The Carlow Hub for Workforce Development and Innovation
20 The College of Professional Studies
22 New innovative simulation center
23 Renovated St. Joseph Hall
24 Alum ready to lead her hometown of Braddock toward economic stability
25 Sisters of Mercy mark 90 years
26 “Carlow on the Road” leads to successful collaboration between alum
The new Commuter and Veterans Lounge on the ground floor of University Commons gives commuting students, as well as those who have served in the armed forces or are in the reserves, a place to relax, study or converse with classmates.

Carlow University has been a military-friendly institution since the Sisters of Mercy opened their doors to soldiers returning home after World War II. Those veterans, eager to use their GI Bill benefits to earn a college education, were the first men to attend classes at Carlow. Through the years, Carlow has been proud to support the men and women who serve our nation, and that tradition continues today with the creation of this lounge.

The Commuter and Veterans Lounge was generously funded through a gift by John Laubach Jr. and Suzanne Laubach.
“Gilmore says Pittsburgh’s Irish history tells a compelling story of how immigrants organized through labor, religion, and politics to shape what Pittsburgh is today, while facing vehement anti-Irish sentiments.”

+ From Pittsburgh City Paper’s March 13 “How to Celebrate Pittsburgh’s Irish History without Drinking Green Beer,” which featured Peter Gilmore, PhD, Carlow adjunct professor of history.

“(A shooting) might be one of the things you do that day. Another call might be for a victim of child abuse, or for an elderly person in a house with no food. These cumulative events build and build, and very often our first responders don’t have time to get through one before they have to face another one.”

+ Sheila Gillespie Roth, PhD, professor of social work at Carlow, quoted in a Jan. 25 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article about caring for first responders.

“They always say there are two types of organizations: those that have been hacked and those who don’t know they’ve been hacked. It’s much harder to hack into a system and it’s easier to hack the human. So people really have to prepare the people that work for them.”

+ Mary Onufer, faculty member in Carlow’s Fraud and Forensics program, speaking to WPXI-TV about cybersecurity risks in light of local governments’ records being compromised by computer hackers. May 13.

“I want to connect the community not only to each other, but I also want to connect people from outside of the community to Braddock.”

+ Chardae Jones, Carlow alumna and interim mayor of Braddock, quoted on WTAE-TV March 11.

“That there will not even be a question or thought about women having the competencies and leadership attributes to lead major corporations, businesses and universities. Women will have every opportunity to excel in their chosen fields.”

+ Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, President of Carlow University, responding to the question, “What do you hope the environment for women in business will be like 15 years from now?” – Pittsburgh Business Times, Women of Influence, March 15.
Poverty doesn’t discriminate, it’s not readily understood and its implications are far-reaching. For nearly 10 years, Carlow University’s nursing faculty have facilitated poverty simulations in the fall and spring to help students better understand this socio-economic issue and be empowered to effect systemic change to combat it.

Carlow University Magazine sat down with nursing faculty member MARY FRANCES REIDELL, MSN, RN, to talk about the goal and impact of these simulations.

Carlow University Magazine: What is a poverty simulation?

Reidell: It’s designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical family who is living at or below the poverty level and trying to survive from month to month. We’re trying to sensitize the participants to the realities of low-income people.

Carlow University Magazine: Who participates?

Reidell: Students in nursing, counseling, social work and education regularly participate. But it is open to students of any discipline.

Carlow University Magazine: What takes place during a simulation?

Reidell: Participants are assigned to a family and given a particular role, such as father, mother or child. The family must navigate throughout a room to utilize simulated resources and assistance that is available. This can involve acquiring food, finding a job, losing their apartment because they can’t pay the rent, seeking daycare, visiting a bank or consulting with a social service agency. The family has 15-minute intervals to accomplish many tasks. Each interval is designed to represent one month that a low-income family navigates for assistance.

Carlow University Magazine: How does this support Carlow’s mission and values?

Reidell: It’s aligned with the sacredness of creation and opens the students’ eyes to diverse perspectives. This helps them to evaluate how they can reach out in service and create systemic change for people living in poverty. I like them to take it to a deeper level. How can they effect change as professionals and citizens?

Carlow University Magazine: What type of feedback or impact does this have on students?

Reidell: Students typically indicate that it’s an eye-opening experience and their perspectives have changed. They gain more respect for people living in poverty and are less judgmental. Some of them say they would like to serve more. My goal is that they have great empathy and compassion for the clients they serve who are struggling with poverty and that they can visualize specific legislative advocacy that can help change or move folks out of poverty. I like them to take it to a deeper level. How can they effect change as professionals and citizens?

Carlow University Magazine: Is participation limited to students?

Reidell: No. Carlow faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to volunteer. It would be optimal if they not only volunteer, but participate. Everybody should have the opportunity to walk in the shoes.

For more information about volunteering for or participating in a spring or fall poverty simulation, contact Reidell at 412.578.6108 or mfreidell@carlow.edu.
Celebrating 90 Years
With seven faculty, 24 students, and an annual tuition and fees of $214, Mount Mercy College (now known as Carlow University) was founded on September 24, 1929. This year marks the 90th anniversary and we will be celebrating our history and looking forward to a bright and promising future. Here’s to the next 90 years!

Carlow University Names Stephanie Wilsey, PhD, New Dean of the College of Leadership and Social Change
Following a national search, Stephanie A. Wilsey, PhD, professor of psychology, has been named dean of the College of Leadership and Social Change at Carlow University effective July 1, 2019. She has been serving as interim dean of the college since August 2018 and as a full-time faculty member at Carlow since 2007.

“We believe we have an outstanding new dean who will play a vital role in leading the College of Leadership and Social Change through dynamic innovation in a rapidly changing time in higher education,” said Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, President of Carlow University.

“Dr. Wilsey is the ideal choice for Carlow to lead the College of Leadership and Social Change as its next dean,” said Sibdas Ghosh, PhD, Carlow’s provost, in announcing the appointment. “Dr. Wilsey is a gifted scholar who managed the college effectively as interim dean. I have no doubt that, as a thoughtful leader, Dr. Wilsey will keep the college on the cutting edge of best practices in higher education including teaching, research and service.”

Prior to her appointment as interim dean, Wilsey served as professor and co-chair of Carlow’s undergraduate psychology program. In this capacity, she collaborated with colleagues to launch innovative, interdisciplinary programming in areas such as crisis and trauma, child development and behavioral neuroscience.

Faculty Promotions
Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, President of Carlow University, announced the following faculty promotions for 2019 for colleagues who have demonstrated strong innovative teaching and engagement with students, exemplary scholarship, and service to their department/college, the university, their professional organization and the broader external community:

+ Dr. Felicia Cianciarulo
  Full Professor

+ Dr. David Gallaher
  Full Professor

+ Dr. Anne Rashid
  Full Professor

+ Dr. William Kowallis
  Associate Professor with tenure

+ Dr. Deborah Mitchum
  Associate Professor with tenure

+ Dr. Aimee Zellers
  Associate Professor with tenure
CARLOW UNIVERSITY RECEIVES $1.2 MILLION NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Carlow University a nearly $1.2 million grant through its Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program to prepare secondary-level teachers to teach STEM effectively in high-need school districts.

“We are honored that Carlow University was selected for this competitive grant and confident that it will advance our efforts to prepare secondary-level teachers to teach STEM more effectively,” said Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, President of Carlow University. “STEM education is a significant part of shaping our region’s future workforce, and Carlow has been at the forefront of the instruction in such efforts.”

The project, titled “Preparing Secondary STEM Teachers with Experiential Learning and Computational Thinking Skills for Effectiveness in High-Need School Districts,” has five objectives:

- Recruit an increasing number of STEM undergraduates as Noyce Carlow Scholars (NCS).
- Recruit and enroll an increasing number of STEM professionals in graduate education programs.
- Retain and graduate the NCS students with a strong commitment to teaching in high-need schools.
- Support 100 percent of NCS students completing their secondary certification to secure employment as a teacher in a high-need school.
- Ensure 96 percent of NCS students will fulfill their teaching commitment in a high-need school.

To meet the five objectives, Carlow will offer multiple experiential learning opportunities throughout the program with a special emphasis on development of computational thinking skills and best practices to support a diverse student population. NCS students will gain experience through such activities as peer tutoring, STEM expos, internships, daylong workshops and weeklong robotics courses.

CARLOW UNIVERSITY’S DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (PSYD) REACREDITED BY APA FOR 10 YEARS
The American Psychological Association’s (APA) Commission on Accreditation has reaffirmed the accreditation of Carlow University’s doctoral program in counseling psychology (PsyD). The commission’s next site visit will be in 2028.

“The PsyD program in Counseling Psychology at Carlow University aims to train students to have a solid foundation of the discipline-specific knowledge and skills essential to the scientifically informed professional practice of counseling psychology; have advanced profession-wide knowledge and direct-practice skills most evidenced by health service psychologists; have the knowledge and awareness necessary to act as culturally sensitive practitioners and agents of social change as reflected by the defining characteristics of counseling psychology; and develop through a learning environment that promotes collaboration and supports professional and personal growth,” wrote Jacqueline Remondet Wall, PhD, director of the APA’s Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, in a letter to Joseph Roberts, PhD, training director of the PsyD program at Carlow.

Carlow’s PsyD program is one of only three APA-accredited counseling programs nationwide with a social justice focus. This allows Carlow doctoral students to focus on the relationship between psychological distress and the broader social strains created from inequality and lack of resources.

Carlow PsyD students have engaged in pre-doctoral internships with numerous organizations, including the Charles George VA Medical Center, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Allegheny General Hospital, The Ohio State University, Cleveland Clinic and Brooke Army Medical Center.

For more information about Carlow’s PsyD program, call 412.578.6059.

CARLOW LAUNCHES NEW BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN DATA ANALYTICS
Carlow University’s new bachelor of science degree in data analytics is enrolling now for classes beginning in fall 2019.

“Carlow University will join the technical and statistical skills needed in the field with an infusion of ethics and communication skills,” said Beth Zamboni, PhD, chair of the mathematics department at Carlow.

The program will use real-world data that has been created and curated by corporations such as Google and Microsoft.

“Our program focuses on applied mathematics and statistics with a focus on teaching students to use the tools that they will need to interpret and thrive in the data world,” said Ericka Mochan, PhD, program director of the data analytics major. “We have intentionally designed this program to be interdisciplinary so that it includes not only math, stats and analytical tools, but also philosophy, ethics and communication skills.”
NEW GRANTS PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAINING, TELEHEALTH, ACADEMIC COACHING

Heinz Endowments: $182,000
The Summer Youth Philanthropy Program, in conjunction with Social Justice Institutes, is a collaboration between Carlow University and the Heinz Endowments to help college-bound students, in partnership with adults, lead and support change in communities throughout Pittsburgh. Its goals are for interns to gain knowledge of philanthropy with a focus on the Heinz Endowments; demonstrate proficiency in the youth philanthropy grantmaking process; amplify youth voices on issues of public concern using audio documentaries; and build positive relationships with peers and adults from different backgrounds and experiences. The program operates from June 17-Aug. 9, 2019.

Dollar Bank: $30,000 (two years)
This grant will provide much-needed scholarships for adult students, who otherwise receive little or no financial aid toward their academic endeavors. Dollar Bank has awarded $56,250 to Carlow for our adult learners since 2015.

McAuley Ministries: $36,290
This grant is funding an 18-month (Jan. 18, 2019-July 15, 2020) pilot program in which a part-time nursing academic coach will serve at-risk nursing students through purposeful mentoring in academic and self-management skills to promote self-efficacy and resiliency to support retention.

Highmark Health: $25,000
This grant will establish telehealth technology at Carlow University. Telehealth technology provides inter-professional education via both didactic and simulation experiences to promote clinical team skills training; the development of collaborative skills in communication and leadership; and the opportunity to understand one’s professional identity while gaining an understanding of other professional roles on the healthcare team.

Dollar Bank: $15,000
In support of Women’s History Month, Dollar Bank presented Carlow University with a $15,000 grant in honor of outstanding service to Carlow by Sister Marie Imaculee Dana, RSM, PhD. The check, presented by Carlow alumna Carol Neyland, will be used for the university’s scholarship program.

FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS AWARDED GRANTS FROM PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE FUND FOR RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Four members of the Carlow University faculty have been awarded President’s Excellence Fund Grants:

Dr. Danielle Curran, associate professor, director of Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning, and Dr. Michael Kistler, assistant professor, director of the healthcare data analytics and health management programs, for their project Integration of Professional Experience (IPE), focused on producing the next generation of simulation research assistants by engaging IPE with students from various disciplines.

Dr. Susan L. O’Rourke, professor, director of special education programs, Department of Education, for her project Watatos Got Talent, which addresses challenges regarding gender-based violence in rural regions of Uganda.

Dr. Janice McCall, assistant professor, Department of Social Work, for her project on an interdisciplinary qualitative approach to enhancing students’ awareness of social welfare programs to eliminate food insecurity.

These projects are consistent with Carlow University’s mission and well aligned with the goals of our Strategic Plan. The projects were showcased during the 2019 Scholarship Day.

CARLOW UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH FIRST FOUR-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IN PA FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Apprenticeships are common for careers in the building trades, and now, through a first-of-its-kind program at Carlow University, four-year apprenticeships will be available in early childhood education.

Carlow University has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor to launch an early childhood education apprenticeship program that will serve as a model for other programs in the state. Carlow will work with local community colleges to develop a seamless apprenticeship transition for students employed in early childhood education.

“An early childhood apprenticeship program in Pittsburgh can help improve child care workforce retention and increase program quality and can help increase diversity in teacher candidates,” said Rae Ann Hirsh, D.ED., associate professor and director of the Early Childhood Education program. “Early childhood programs need to be high quality, affordable and accessible. An apprenticeship program removes barriers the early childhood workforce has faced and provides a sustainable pathway to degree attainment and higher quality care.”
CARLOW UNIVERSITY, CCAC PRESIDENTS SIGN REVERSE TRANSFER AGREEMENT
The presidents of Carlow University and the Community College of Allegheny County signed a reverse transfer credit agreement at a ceremony April 17 in the President’s Conference Room at Carlow.

The agreement will allow CCAC students who transfer to Carlow before earning their associate degree to apply credits earned at Carlow toward both a bachelor’s degree from Carlow and an associate’s degree from CCAC.

“Because many of today’s college students must work while they are taking university classes, earning an associate degree can make them more marketable for employers and may help them secure a better paying job while in school,” said Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, President of Carlow University. “In addition, studies have shown that students who earn an associate degree are more likely to complete the requirements for a bachelor’s degree.”

Approximately half of the students who transfer to Carlow each semester have taken classes at CCAC.

“To be eligible, students must have earned at least 30 credits at CCAC and at least 12 credits at Carlow to receive their associate degree,” said Quentin Bullock, DDS, CCAC president.

Students who enroll at a community college often do so with the intent of transferring to a four-year institution, but if they do so before completing their associate degree, the community college’s degree completion rate—a metric by which all institutions of higher learning are evaluated—will suffer. This program will help CCAC raise its degree completion rate.

For more information about this program, please call Carlow’s Admissions office at 412.578.6059.

CARLOW UNIVERSITY OFFERS INTRAOPERATIVE NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM WITH UPMC’S PROCIRCA CENTER FOR CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY
Beginning in fall 2019, Carlow University students majoring in behavioral neuroscience can obtain a concentration in intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring (IONM), which monitors nervous system functioning during high-risk surgeries.

“Carlow University’s program in cooperation with UPMC’s Procirca Center for Clinical Neurophysiology is special in that there are only three other programs listed by ASET—the Neurodiagnostic Society that offer a bachelor of science degree leading to a career in neuromonitoring,” said Janine Bartholomew, PhD, associate professor of biology at Carlow.

“IONM has been shown to significantly reduce the occurrence of neurological damage during high-risk surgeries in adult and pediatric populations,” said Josh Sunderlin, MS, CNIM, course coordinator for the Procirca Center for Clinical Neurophysiology. “Use of neuromonitoring can prevent injuries—such as paralysis, muscle weakness, or loss of sensations like hearing, vision and touch—that would severely affect the lives of patients.”

In addition to the Carlow coursework in behavioral neuroscience, students in this program will:
• receive hands-on training in the operating room;
• have the opportunity to observe and assist in up to 150 surgical cases; and
• be able to accumulate the clinical hours necessary to take the ABRET Neurodiagnostic Credentialing and Accreditation certification in neurophysiologic intraoperative monitoring (CNIM).

CARLOW LAUNCHES NEW 10-MONTH E-MBA PROGRAM
Carlow University has launched a new Executive Masters of Business Administration (E-MBA) to prepare successful, mid-career professionals to make an immediate impact in their careers. The E-MBA is designed as an intensive, accelerated, 10-month program of 30-credits/10 online courses, that are divided into eight week sessions. It also incorporates flexibility, knowledge, and real-world experiences that modern leaders need to advance their careers. To apply for the E-MBA, applicants need a minimum of eight-years work experience. No GRE or GMAT is required to enroll, but a 3.0 or higher undergraduate GPA is preferred. Interested applicants can apply online at carlow.edu/apply.
2019 CARLOW LAUREATES

Carlow University named five distinguished alumni as 2019 Carlow Laureates, the university’s most prestigious annual alumni award, during a luncheon May 10 at The Oaklander Hotel, Oakland:

Corinne R. Francis, MA, MDIV, Class of 1997 is the senior vice president for mission integration at CommonSpirit Health, a health care organization created through the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health—a single ministry committed to building health communities covering 21 states.

Ruth A. Modzelewski, PhD, Class of 1985 joined Susan G. Komen Pittsburgh as mission director in 2004 and has grown the organization statewide to become Susan G Komen Greater Pennsylvania. In her role as steward of the research and outreach portfolio, she is a tireless advocate for breast cancer research.

Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, PhD, MPM, Class of 2000/2003 is the executive director, Latin American Studies Association and Affiliates, at the University of Pittsburgh where she has devoted her career to the Latin American academic community.

Shelley Neil Watters, DNP, RN, Class of 2001/2004 is senior director of cultural excellence, director of organizational development, nursing education and research, and program director of Magnet at UPMC Shadyside. She’s served in numerous leadership roles at UPMC during her career.

The Young Carlow Laureate 2019: Chardaé Jones, Class of 2011 was recently appointed the interim Mayor of Braddock, Pennsylvania, replacing John Fetterman who was sworn in as Pennsylvania’s lieutenant governor in January.

LITERARY CORNER

Investigative journalist Katherine Boo comes to Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series

Carlow University President Dr. Suzanne Mellon had the honor of introducing investigative journalist Katherine Boo as part of the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series Oct. 22. Boo is a staff writer at The New Yorker and a former reporter and editor for The Washington Post. Her reporting has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize, a MacArthur “Genius” grant and a National Magazine Award for feature writing. She read excerpts from her latest book, Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.

Award-winning writer Ottessa Moshfegh speaks with Carlow creative writing graduates and undergraduates

Award-winning writer Ottessa Moshfegh spoke with students in the undergraduate creative writing, MFA and Madwomen in the Attic programs in February. Moshfegh, in town for the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series, read excerpts from her short story Slumming, and spoke about writing, cultural appropriation and existential anxiety. Her work has won the Fence Modern Prize in Prose, the PEN/Hemingway Award and the Plimpton Prize.
Carlow University confronted hate and hate speech Dec. 4 with a discussion on appropriate community responses to tragedies like the Squirrel Hill Tree of Life synagogue shooting, in which 11 worshippers lost their lives.

The program was sponsored by the Atkins Endowed Center for Ethics and the Social Justice Institutes.

“Much of what I have to say today is grim and disturbing,” said William Schweers, JD, executive director of the Atkins Center. “But we cannot avert our eyes. That would not be the appropriate response.”

Schweers, Mark Weir, former assistant director of equity and inclusion at Carlow, and Sheila Roth, PhD, associate professor of social work at Carlow, shared their expertise about what to do next.

Their advice included learning the language of discrimination so that oppression and hate can be easier to spot; realizing that hate crimes are not as rare as many believe; and speaking up when hate speech is detected, because apathy will be interpreted as acceptance.

Roth said that such tragedies often produce symptoms of trauma in survivors and first responders and can lead to short tempers, lack of focus, anxiety and depression. Others need to be aware of the warning signs of trauma, she said. To help combat trauma, she suggests establishing routines; offering something positive that can unite people; and staying engaged so that a person experiencing trauma will know there is no time limit on reaching out to others for help.

The citizens of Christchurch, New Zealand, and Pittsburgh, Pa. share a grim bond: Mass killers targeted their places of worship.

Carlow University’s Atkins Endowed Center for Ethics presented The Attack on Faith, focused on building common ground and jointly challenging bigotry, April 24 in the Gailliot Center in University Commons.

“Last December, the Atkins Endowed Center for Ethics presented a program titled Confronting Hate, which addressed the increase in hate crimes, anti-Semitism and white supremacy groups throughout the U.S.,” said William Schweers, JD, executive director of the Atkins Center. “That program’s message was that hate is an open attack on tolerance and acceptance, and called for a united effort to confront the scourge of prejudice. The discussion that began in December continued with The Attack on Faith.”

The program, emceed by Schweers, featured the following panelists:

- **Rabbi Jamie Gibson**, senior rabbi, Temple Sinai, Pittsburgh
- **Jeannette S. Jouili**, assistant professor of religious studies, University of Pittsburgh
- **Toby Tabachnick**, senior staff writer, *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*
Grads empowered to move into the world and use their voice to effect change

By
Elizabeth Fazzini
THE ESSENCE OF SPRING ushered in a new wave of graduates during Carlow University’s commencement May 11, where more than 400 students received bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, saluted their accomplishments, acknowledging them as part of the more than 16,000 sons and daughters of Carlow University.

Commencement day began with a baccalaureate Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland, celebrated by Father Mark A. Thomas, university chaplain. He reminded those in attendance to use the gifts they’ve been given and the education they received to help others and extend mercy and compassion.

“A person of faith who is fully engrossed in doing God’s work has found the pearl of great price,” Father Thomas said. “God has empowered us through his mighty presence in us.”

Commencement was held in Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum and nearly filled to capacity.

Elevating the courageous seven Sisters of Mercy who founded the university nearly 90 years ago, Mellon told graduates that this risk taking and entrepreneurial spirit has striking relevance in our time of rapid change, turbulence, and political and civil unrest.

“You’re entering a world that will need strong leaders,” she said, before offering four take-away messages: keep learning with the lens and strength of character and values Carlow University is built upon; make a difference in the world that improves the lives of those around you; be risk-takers, like the Sisters of Mercy who founded the university; and be kind, compassionate and caring.

“The world is surely in need of that more than ever,” Mellon said.

Student speaker Yazmin Bennett-Kelly ’19, BA in English and secondary education and recipient of the 2019 Joseph G. Smith Award, drew from the university’s hallmark investment in social justice by recalling the time in her life when she saw only hopelessness, gender wage gaps and mass incarceration, only to realize that she could, in fact, make a difference through the type of values and mission espoused by Carlow University.

“Carlow’s values of discovery and service resonated with me,” Bennett-Kelly said.

Today she sees activists who serve as change-makers, offering people power and hope. And she implored the graduates to work together to promote the much-needed change in the world and to depart with a sense of urgency to use their power and voice to plant life-giving seeds.

“Never underestimate the power of your voice,” Bennett-Kelly said.
KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED FROM CARLOW’S HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Three individuals were awarded honorary degrees: Michele Atkins ’82, trustee emerita, Carlow University Board of Trustees; Gregg Behr, JD, executive director, Grable Foundation; and Victoria Nalongo Namusisi, founder, Bright Kids Orphanage, Uganda.

“Go out and do wonderful work. Live each day to the fullest. Expect miracles, but work hard to make them happen. Each of you has the potential to create a difference in the world.”
– Michele Atkins ’82

“Take a few seconds to think about when something ordinary became, for you, something more. Think of a moment that stirred you. We become more fully ourselves during ordinary. Listen. Be curious.”
– Gregg Behr, JD

“When you have educated a girl, you have educated an entire community. Not every child gets a chance to go to school (in Africa.) You’re empowered and equipped, a blessing you should not at all take for granted.”
– Victoria Nalongo Namusisi
FANIA DAVIS began her March 20 lecture with a common greeting among the Maasai people of Africa: “Kasserian Ingera”—“How are the children?”

Davis, a civil rights attorney, social justice activist and co-founder of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, was at Carlow University as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. She told her audience to pay particular attention to the Maasai’s sentence structure.

“The Maasai don’t ask about your children or my children, but all children. All of the children are important to them,” she said. “The first thing we must do to bring peace to our communities is to make sure our children are well. Our children are not well, particularly children of color.”

She cited statistics that show children with at least one parent who is incarcerated are more likely to have learning disabilities and suffer from depression, anxiety or physical ailments such as asthma. They are also more likely to act out or have behavioral problems in school, which can get them suspended or even arrested, a step along what Davis referred to as the “school-to-prison pipeline.”

“Youth incarceration is still the best predictor of adult incarceration,” she said.

It’s important to recognize that America has a “prison-industrial complex” founded on a system of retributive—or punishment—justice, Davis said.

“Retributive justice is based on the Roman notion of just desserts,” she said. “If someone does harm to someone else, the only way in this system to bring society back into balance is to harm the perpetrator.”

Davis, however, advocates restorative justice, which she said is growing rapidly across the country. Restorative justice asks three questions:

- Who was harmed?
- What are the needs and responsibilities of everyone who was impacted?
- How do we all come together to address needs and responsibilities and heal the harm?

“Restorative justice invites a paradigm shift,” she said. “Our current system doesn’t address the needs of those who were impacted by a crime.”

She gave an example of an older woman, accompanied by her grandchildren, who is knocked down and has her purse stolen by a young man. She said restorative justice would first attend to the needs of the person who was harmed—the grandmother and grandkids—before turning attention to the young man who stole the purse.

Davis understands that this may sound impractical to people raised under a retributive model of justice, but she has proof that it works. In her hometown of Oakland, Calif., the Cole Middle School Pilot Project was one of the first projects undertaken by Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, the nonprofit Davis co-founded. She said when the school began using restorative justice practices, suspension rates were reduced by 87 percent, violence was eliminated, as was teacher attrition, and reading rates and test scores increased dramatically.

“Kids would ask for the opportunity to talk through their differences,” she said. “Students began to feel seen and heard, which improved their sense of belonging.”

Underlying all societal problems, Davis believes, are the “twin traumas” of America: slavery and the genocide of the indigenous peoples.

“Our whole culture has been prisonized, with the rise of the prison-industrial complex,” she said. “We’ve criminalized ordinary childhood behavior—such as getting into a milk fight or defacing property—and kids are getting arrested because of it instead of trying to repair the harm.”

Davis believes this would not happen if the nation had not been born in slavery, which is why she emphasizes that students need to learn about the history of slavery, genocide and the civil rights movement—not in an attempt to shame the nation, but as a way to restore it.

“All of this has to come out or we will never be able to get healthy,” Davis said.
BRANCHING OUT: EXPANSION OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTES MOVING THE NEEDLE

By Ann Lyon Ritchie

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTES (SJI) at Carlow University are making an impact. As the SJI’s new director, Ryan Scott is deepening roots and strengthening their stance as a go-to resource for the campus, the Pittsburgh region and beyond.

“Right now is a prime opportunity for SJI to reach out,” Scott said.

Founded in 2016, SJI are expanding their breadth across the many issues that resonate with their cause, such as equal opportunities for healthcare and education, access to food and shelter, and building safe communities for disenfranchised populations.

“Founding SJI director Jessica Ruffin did a fantastic job laying the groundwork. We can now leverage our infrastructure to get broader communities involved,” Scott said.

The SJI has multiple branches:

• The Grace Ann Geibel Institute supports faculty by providing three tiers of funding: a $1,500 seed grant, a $3,000-$5,000 level to build upon initiatives and the $8,000 signature level to support programs with longevity. Projects close to home include a food security program by Janice McCall and work by Jessica Friedrichs to help the Somali Bantu population assimilate in Pittsburgh. Communities in Uganda are benefiting from projects led by Susan O’Rourke, to supply clean water, and Mary Burke, to prevent human trafficking.

• The Center for Community Engaged Learning, the newest SJI branch, is working in collaboration with the Center for Digital Learning and Innovation to develop online modules that will provide guidance to community leaders and coordinators to lead discussion about social justice issues in the community.

“For social justice issues across the board, Carlow is moving the needle in terms of education and awareness,” Scott said.

RYAN SCOTT
DIRECTOR, SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTES
As a child, Serena Green, who is slated to graduate in August, constantly asked for explanations from her parents and teachers about things in the world around her.

“I’ve always been driven by the question ‘why?’” Green said. “As I went through school, the question changed to ‘how?’”

Seeking answers drew her toward biology as a major.

“I wanted all of that curiosity that came to me naturally to be answered,” said Green, who loves to read in a variety of genres.

Green came to realize there were some answers biology couldn’t provide. She turned to creative writing, something she had practiced for years by writing poems about her thoughts and emotions.

“Science can be cut and dried. It’s based on facts, not emotion,” she said. “In writing, I can put all of the emotions that I can’t put into science into my poetry.”

Like many Carlow students, Green recognized the value of a liberal arts education to help her explore different educational pathways that will prepare her to achieve academic and professional goals. Students like Green benefit from the Carlow Compass, a unique educational curriculum rooted in the liberal arts and the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Compass, which was instituted in the fall of 2015, serves as a navigational
tool that integrates a student’s major course of study with courses that introduce, develop and reinforce specific learning outcomes.

“From her first semester here at Carlow, Serena recognized the importance of developing her own voice and the power inherent in cultivating her own depth of imagination, something she recognized as essential to any successful career path,” said Louis Boyle, PhD, professor of English. “She is a talented poet and writer, but perhaps more important than her innate talent is her willingness to make time for reading and writing and to actively engage in further developing her academic prowess on all fronts.

“Serena is the model of the wise student who takes full advantage of all Carlow has to offer in the fields of writing and humanities. We will miss her terribly, but we know that she graduates as a more complete scientist, writer and human being – in short, as a testament to the profound influence of the Mercy mission and the Carlow liberal arts tradition.”

A love of creative writing drives Cameron Short, too. The Carlow rising junior is a behavioral neuroscience major who plans to enter the accelerated Master of Arts in psychology program with a concentration in assessment psychology, and eventually do hospital-based research into neuropsychology as a means to help people with cognitive disorders. He sees real value in his creative writing minor.

“I’m a very analytical person. Figuring out people and how the brain works fascinates me. The brain, along with the depth of the ocean and space, are the next frontiers,” said Short, who credits the variety in Carlow’s curriculum with helping him apply what he already knows and try new things. “I like to use the mechanics that I already know about and put them together in creative ways. I get to do that with poetry. Every single word and every single line in a poem creates meaning. I’m drawn to that.”

Recognizing the value of a liberal arts education also works the other way. Ashley Anderson, who just completed her first year majoring in English, has always loved math.

“I was always in higher math classes going through middle and high school,” says Anderson, who considered a career as an accountant or even for NASA before falling in love with English as a major. “I still really enjoy problem-solving, and I feel taking pre-calc is helping me to do better in my other classes.”

Anderson believes the Carlow Compass made her think about taking courses she wouldn’t have otherwise considered.

“For me, it makes it easier to try new things and not be intimidated by taking a class that I may be semi-interested in, but still feel iffy about,” she said.

Sometimes taking a class outside of one’s major opens up new ways of applying that major in the real world. Recent grad Angela Carney ’19 was first drawn to chemistry in high school, but looked forward to learning more than just chemistry at Carlow.

“In 10th grade, my chemistry teacher didn’t just teach the formulas, but he taught how it relates to our lives,” she recalled. “By the time I took Chemistry II, I knew I wanted to major in chemistry in college.

“I read for fun,” she said. “The distribution of studies allowed me to expand my mind beyond my major.”

Carney took a class about women in film, and her Mass Media and Society class helped her to understand how people got their news before the advent of television and the internet.

Carney plans to apply to a graduate program in epidemiology so she can use her chemistry major and math minor to understand how diseases spread in populations. Ultimately, she says her goal is to apply what she has learned at Carlow in a public health setting and to help people.

Ericka Mochan, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics, said the liberal arts education improved Carney’s communication skills, which helped her self-confidence and led her to seek leadership positions on campus.

“Angela is a prime example of how Carlow’s unique environment and curriculum can truly prepare a student for a successful post-graduate career,” said Mochan. “Angela’s liberal arts education fostered strong critical thinking skills, which allowed her to apply the concepts she had learned in her chemistry courses to the problems we worked on in math classes. Angela grew so much in her time at Carlow; she went from not having enough confidence in her abilities in her STEM courses, to declaring a math minor, to eventually leaning towards a master’s program in an interdisciplinary STEM field.”
VISION:
Carlow University proposed the initiative to help ensure that new graduates, as well as those currently employed, were adequately prepared for the jobs of the future. This vision included a larger adaptation of skill sets across multiple occupations requiring a stronger partnership between industry and education leaders.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LAUNCHING THE HUB:
In 2016, Pittsburgh found itself at a critical intersection threatening the region’s economy. It was predicted then that over the next 10 years, a quarter of a million people in the workforce would enter retirement – and another 1.2 million workers would need to be hired or upskilled in order to fill the gap created by rapidly evolving technological changes and an underdeveloped pipeline of new talent.

With a long commitment to liberal arts and skills development, Carlow University responded to the Allegheny Conference’s 2016 and 2017-2018 Inflection Point Reports, addressing the skills gap by creating the Hub for Workforce Development and Innovation. The Hub developed new programs, established partnerships in industry and developed alternative pathways for education, continuing to provide opportunities for students in fields across different industries.

The Hub is unique to this region in its approach to partnering with regional employees and Carlow University employees. The Hub provides programs that are specific to the needs of the region’s workforce.

HOW IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE:
Carlow University received a two-year $500,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to implement the Hub. It will continue to sustain itself through the success of its diverse, scalable programs.

LAUNCHING THE HUB:
As a new initiative at Carlow University, the Hub applied strategic decisions in the establishment of the partnerships, programs and courses that were developed in response to the region’s workforce needs.

In order to sustain the Hub long-term, it is essential that its programs are responsive to current needs and that it continues to develop individuals for the workforce. To that end, the university has established a College of Professional Studies that will further build on Carlow’s expertise and success in providing transformational educational opportunities for adults and professionals in the Pittsburgh region.

Rachael Afolabi, the former executive director of the Center for Digital Learning and Hub for Workforce Development and Innovation, Scott Mehall, senior instructional designer, workforce development coordinator and online instructional design and technology certificate program director; and Jessica Martin, digital learning and workforce development specialist, were involved in leading and executing the activities of the Hub for Workforce Development and Innovation.

HOW CARLOW’S STUDENTS BENEFIT:
Students form partnerships with potential employers in the region, completing programs and courses that provide them with the skills that are necessary to meet employers’ needs. They gain transferrable skills that are needed to be successful in a variety of fields in the region.

HOW THIS HAS POSITIONED CARLOW WITHIN THE REGION:
This project has allowed Carlow to explore and establish alternative delivery models and pathways to degree completion and skills development, and to explore additional revenue streams that enable the university to reach untapped markets and individuals with barriers to education.

PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS:
- Academic program development: Traditional university programs (bachelor’s, master’s)
- Alternative pathways: Alternative means of obtaining educational qualifications other than the traditional means of gaining access to a required program of study to obtain educational qualifications.
- Industry partnerships: Innovative, strategic partnerships between academia and industry to address a major component of the inflection report. Some industry partners are directly involved with university program development or with a critical need for talent development in a specific industry.

For more information on the Hub for Workforce Development and Innovation, contact Jim Ice, EdD, at jwice@carlow.edu.
Companies in the region are changing the way they view partnerships with higher education, and Carlow University’s College of Professional Studies is committed to helping them understand that their ability to learn and quickly adapt gives them a competitive advantage.

“The traditional view of higher education as merely a degree-granting institution from whom organizations hire new graduates has transformed into an awareness that successful companies recognize the strategic advantage of being a “learning organization,” said Jim Ice, EdD, dean of the College of Professional Studies.

This can involve partnering with a university to help the organization rethink their product and service offerings, upskill and develop their workforce with customized educational offerings, or provide its employees with leadership training or personalized cohorts, he said.

Carlow University’s College of Professional Studies is on the fore of this evolving relationship. It continues to expand its educational offerings while forging new academic and corporate partnerships with organizations—and even other colleges—in order to meet the demands of the region.

In June, the university launched an Executive Master in Business Administration program (E-MBA) that’s designed with the flexibility, knowledge and real-world experiences that modern leaders need to impact organizations and advance their careers. The intensive, completely online 10-month cohort model is designed for the experienced business professional with a minimum of eight years of professional experience.

Carlow University also continues to develop cost-effective graduate-level certificate programs that enable working professionals to gain valuable expertise in high-demand areas, such as project management; fraud and forensics; cyber threat research and analytics; and online teaching.

It’s also expanded its educational offerings to include academic and corporate partnerships, among them the recently formed partnership with the Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA) and Redstone Highlands.

Carlow’s collaboration with the ACAA utilizes an industry-leading, social customer care skill-builder program that provides specialized on-demand mobile/digital support. Customer care agents, Carlow alumni, have been deployed as a mobile team in the terminal as part of a one-year pilot program working to improve the customer experience.

Christina Cassotis, ACAA CEO, said that improving the customer experience is a priority for the Airport Authority, and they view this program as a complement to their traditional customer service representatives.

“We want to engage with customers wherever possible,” Cassotis said in a June 19 news release. “Additionally, we’re extremely pleased to partner with another great Pittsburgh institution to help us get there.”

Redstone Highlands, which offers high quality living choices for senior citizens, has chosen Carlow University as its academic partner. The organization is providing scholarships for five employees to enroll part-time in Carlow’s RN to BSN program this fall, and Carlow is providing leadership training for their nursing leadership team.

“Redstone is excited to partner with Carlow University, a transformational and highly respected institution, to help solidify our commitment to lifelong learning and personal development,” said Christine Shope, director of education and informatics.

And the recently signed reverse transfer credit agreement between the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and Carlow University will allow CCAC students who transfer to Carlow before earning their associate degree to apply credits earned at Carlow toward both a bachelor’s degree from Carlow and an associate’s degree from CCAC.

These partnerships, in addition to the hundreds that Carlow has historically developed, serve both the outside corporate community and the university—as well as the region.

“The ability for an organization to learn faster than its competition may be the only sustainable source of competitive advantage left today,” Ice said.

For more information about the opportunities that are available through the College of Professional Studies, contact Ice at jwice@carlow.edu.
A NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENT in Curran Hall has expanded opportunities for both students and faculty.

The renovated Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning (CSCIL), which opened its doors to Carlow University nursing students last fall, expanded from 2,000 to 4,000 square feet and now features state-of-the-art technology that simulates what nurses encounter in the real world.

The third floor houses the sim center and the debriefing, control and simulation rooms. The fourth floor has a nine-bed skills lab, examination room, student lounge and skills refinement room.

Simulation hours count as clinical hours for students. With the doubled space, the center has allowed students to increase their simulation hours by 20 percent, expanding upon their learning experiences and advancing their career preparation. With recent advances in technology, the level of realism in replicating the hospital environment has transformed the learners’ experience to become fully immersive and works to advance improved patient safety.

Danielle Curran, DNP, MSN, RN, director of CSCIL, sees firsthand how the upgraded technology is enriching her students’ learning.

“The new cameras located throughout the simulation rooms allow us to record everything. In the control room, there are several monitors where we can see the students and what is happening during their simulation. The cameras in the simulation rooms have the capability to zoom in or out to view any aspect of the simulation experience,” Curran said.

Bill Ferchak serves as the full-time technical support in the CSCIL and works closely with the faculty and students.

“The technological improvements in the lab have made learning more engaging for the students and has enabled the faculty to better focus on the teaching goals,” Ferchak said.

During simulations, students interact with high-tech mannequins equipped to mimic situations such as a heart attack or a woman giving birth. Afterward, students review recordings, evaluate their performances and discuss as a group in the debriefing room.

Sanju Sigdel, a senior nursing student, has high praise for the renovated center.

“Before the new center, I didn’t have a realistic idea of what would happen in an actual hospital room. After completing my courses in the CSCIL, I have hands-on experience which gives me confidence in my skills,” said Sigdel, who has accepted a nursing job in the transplant unit at Allegheny General Hospital and will begin her position after the completion of her board exams.

According to Curran, the new facilities are attracting new students as well as students who are returning for a second career in nursing.

But the space isn’t restricted to nursing. Students in healthcare management, social work, healthcare data analytics and respiratory care now have access to the space, allowing for interprofessional education (IPE) with the interaction of disciplines.

The CSCIL also welcomes local organizations to visit and experience the new technology. Gwen’s Girls, whose mission is to empower young women, visited shortly after the center’s opening. The tour informed the young women about the educational and career opportunities of a nurse. The Carlow Campus Laboratory School students also visited.

“We are thankful for the support of our president, Dr. Mellon, and the Carlow University Board of Trustees, who made the renovation a priority, and to our donors, who committed to funding the renovation,” said Lynn George, PhD, dean of the College of Health and Wellness. “The result is an amazing learning environment for our students.”
TO COMMEMORATE the completion of St. Joseph’s Hall renovation project, the Carlow community celebrated with great joy at a ribbon cutting ceremony, complete with a burst of confetti, June 6.

President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, acknowledged that the building has stood as a sign of Carlow’s heritage and that moving forward it will be a place to inspire the students who walk through its doors.

George Sliman, director of athletics, and Dot Davis, chairman of the Board of Trustees, were among the nearly 100 people gathered for the occasion.

Built in 1929, St. Joseph’s Hall serves as the Carlow Celtic’s athletics headquarters as well as the university’s fitness and wellness center. Last year the university began an $8 million renovation to improve the historic 27,275 square-foot building in order to accommodate growing enrollment and to provide modern upgrades for the athletic and fitness center.

Now finished, the array of improvements includes the transformation of the pool area into a new multi-level fitness center, new men’s and women’s locker rooms, and the creation of a hospitality suite to welcome visitors on campus. There also were improvements to the coaches’ offices and training rooms, along with the installation of new basketball court flooring, dance studio flooring, elevator and whole-building air conditioning.

The completion of the space is a benefit for the students and the Carlow community as a whole. “We see this building as a symbol of pride and a place for students to thrive,” Sliman said.

Men’s basketball team member Swade Redman weighed in on the new space. “The new exercise and weight room is a place for us to train and hang out together allowing us to better bond as a team,” he said.

President Mellon said that today’s students care about their health and wellness.

“With over 200 student athletes on campus, we seek to make St. Joe’s a place where they can meet their wellness goals,” she said.

While the renovations were taking place, construction completely occupied the Campus Green and one of the Sisters of Mercy Sacredness of Creation Garden to the left of the building, both of which contribute toward the campus’ peaceful character within the urban city. With the project now complete, these areas will be reconstructed with the planting of trees, shrubs and other greenery to transform the landscape back to its original beauty.

The generous giving of many donors made the completion of the project possible with the Carlow Board of Trustees contributing one million dollars alone.

“We are very fortunate to have such generous trustees,” said Kimberley Hammer, vice president for advancement.

If you would like to schedule a tour of the new facility, contact Admissions at admissions@carlow.edu.
The interim mayor of Braddock clearly remembers her early days at Carlow.

Chardaé Jones ’11 sometimes felt awful as a freshman—partly thrilled, partly filled with self-doubt. This unsettling mix of emotions is common among first-year students. What set Jones apart? She believed she could make it better.

“I realized I could help other people who felt lost,” Jones said.

Jones helped to build up the first-year orientation program in her sophomore year, but she didn’t stop there. She raised awareness of homelessness, ran toy drives and mentored high school students in the Youth Media Advocacy Project. After graduation, she joined AmeriCorps to aid youth in her hometown of Braddock.

Jones was influenced by her advisor, Susan O’Rourke, EDD, professor of education, director of special education, and co-leader of the Carlow Cares Sligo, Ireland and Nicaragua study abroad programs.

O’Rourke said informal surveys of her students have indicated a strong affinity with community and social justice issues.

"Carlow students tend to see themselves as an integral part of our society and see that there is a responsibility associated with it," she said.

Jones is a communicator by profession, but her roles of mentor, committee chair and volunteer carry the same weight on her resume as her job titles of business analyst and freelance writer.

“I wasn’t a volunteerism kind of person before Carlow. Now I consider myself a full-time volunteer and a full-time employee," she said.

In January, she took on a new role: interim mayor of Braddock, the position vacated by newly elected Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman. The borough council voted Jones “the best for the job” from a pool of candidates after Fetterman went to Harrisburg. A few months later, she won the democratic seat in the May 21 primary election.

Fetterman appeared on talk shows and drew media attention to Braddock as the poster child for American towns with unlocked potential. In 2010, Levi’s did a photo shoot with residents in jeans for its “Go Forth: Ready For Work” campaign.

The borough’s struggles are real. A designation as a financially distressed community under Act 47 allows Braddock to receive state aid for economic recovery. There is also a tenuous relationship between residents and police.

Jones’ No. 1 issue as mayor is public safety. Under the Act 47 designation, the borough cannot hire its own full-time police staff. It relies on part-time officers from other areas.

Lifting of the Act 47 designation is another one of her goals.

"It’s time for a change. Sometimes change is something you’re going to fear, but when you come out of this fear, you’re a better person," Jones said.

Eleven years after a first-year student recognized her personal struggles as common ground from which to help her peers, she is ready to lead her hometown toward economic stability. The job of mayor demands her strong communication skills and her indelible commitment to community service, but her Carlow experiences and its Mercy values are a firm foundation for the ethics-minded leader Jones has become.
A historic marker at 800 Penn Avenue tells us that when the Sisters of Mercy reached Pittsburgh they “began at once” to do the Works of Mercy. In truth, even the five-week sea voyage from Liverpool to New York hadn’t offered a respite from what Catherine McAuley called “the business of our lives.”

As the Queen of the West crossed the Atlantic, the sisters ministered to the passengers in steerage, attending to their physical needs and teaching them the truths of their faith. In the Mercy tradition, they noticed a need and used the resources at hand—their own energy and dedication—to meet it.

This pattern, typical of Catherine McAuley and the community she founded, became a hallmark of the sisters in Pittsburgh. Educational needs were met with the creation of schools, orphans were housed and cared for, and sickness and disease led to the founding of the world’s first Mercy Hospital. Today, concern for the abused has led to the slogan “See something? Say something.” For these sisters, the mantra was “See something? Do something!”

Our university was born from just such a spirit. When in the 1920s the need for Catholic higher education for women became evident, the sisters, without buildings, resources or charter, began Mount Mercy College. In the face of need they were quick to act. The details, such as the small matter of state authorization, could be dealt with later.

The history of the university tells of many such moments. When soldiers desirous of utilizing the GI Bill found that there were not enough institutions to serve them, this all-women’s school welcomed them and the sisters “winked” at the smoking and card playing in the garage. When a teacher shortage reached crisis proportions, the cadet program, an accelerated degree in education, was created. When women in the Hill District needed extra support to begin baccalaureate education, the Carlow Hill College provided on-site preparatory classes and child care to assure their success. Weekend college soon followed, catering to the needs of working adults by providing accelerated programs leading to degrees. More recently, online and hybrid formats are responding to the complicated lives of our students. The new College of Professional Studies promises, “We’ll make this work for you” as the university commits itself to ongoing transformation in the face of changing needs, new challenges and eager learners.

Jan Geason, RSM, a Sister of Mercy from Australia, has written “Fidelity to our past helps us to develop new life in the spirit of the original vision.” The sisters who founded Mount Mercy College to serve the educational needs of Catholic women could never have envisioned the diverse and dynamic university we know today. But they would easily recognize the living spirit of the original vision—response to the present need.

As we mark 90 years of fidelity to their dream, we celebrate this defining characteristic of the university – that our deep rootedness in our Catholic/Mercy heritage, rather than confining us, provides the bedrock of stability for an environment in which transformation is expected and embraced. Grateful for our past from which the dynamic present has emerged, we welcome the future confidently and with renewed commitment to our founding spirit.

Sister Sheila serves as Special Assistant to the President, Mercy Heritage and Service.
“CARLOW ON THE ROAD” LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN ALUM

by JAMES FOREMAN

IN A GRAVEL LOT IN THE MIDDLE OF SUNNY, sandy St. Petersburg, Fla., four storage containers sit, similar to those seen on tractor trailers or transcontinental transport ships. There are tens of millions of these “intermodal freight containers” around the world. Most are used for their intended purpose—transporting goods all over the globe. But at Brick Street Farms, the brainchild of Shannon O’Malley, MBA ’04 and ’08, grow 8-10 acres of produce every month, year-round.

During a “Carlow on the Road” alumni gathering in Clearwater, Fla., O’Malley met Pat Gimper Donohoe ’75, who became her mentor and investor in her blooming business. The combination of these two forces—O’Malley’s vision and Donohoe’s entrepreneurial experience—led to a collaboration that is sure to grow big dividends, all thanks to the power of hydroponics.

Hydroponics is the science of growing plants without soil using just nutrient-rich water, simulated sunlight from LEDs and plenty of climate-controlled air. The technique has existed for centuries, but O’Malley perfected it. She developed systems that took hydroponics into the 21st century, allowing for the creation of a highly sustainable farm inside of a shipping container. From seed to salad, every stage of Brick Street Farms’ business is conducted inside one of these 40-foot “farms”—including packaging.
“I first started a hydroponics garden in my garage, which grew and grew until my entire two-car garage was converted into a hydroponics garden,” O’Malley said. “I have always had an interest in gardening, but the soil in Florida is sandy, and the ground water is salty, which makes it hard to grow anything. Unlike Pennsylvania, which has glacier water and rich soil.”

O’Malley knows all about gardening in Pennsylvania, having grown up in the Pittsburgh region. Her mother, Cassie Granger ’06, introduced her to Carlow, where she was attending as an adult student. O’Malley visited Carlow and immediately knew where she belonged.

“Once I was on the campus, I really loved it,” she said. “I was a commuter—it’s such a safe and welcoming campus. I felt we were all given individual attention, that our opinions and thoughts were listened to, and this experience continued through my master’s degree.” O’Malley went on to earn a BS in international business and then an MBA.

After her final graduation in 2008, O’Malley left for sunnier surroundings in the Tampa Bay area. Her savvy business sense and strong technological background enabled her hydroponics hobby to bloom into a business. “After we opened the third farm, it was no longer something we could do on weekends and after work,” O’Malley said. “So, in 2017, I launched Brick Street Farms.”

Sole proprietorships can grow and survive on their own, but additional support and guidance help to build brand recognition and financial success better and faster. Enter Nicole DeMartino-Lerda, director of major gifts at Carlow University.

“There are a large number of Carlow alumni living all over the United States, and I wanted to create a program that made it simple for them to reconnect with us here on campus even if they lived many miles away,” DeMartino-Lerda said.

“Carlow on the Road” was launched in 2018 and has visited alumni in 20 cities to date, with many more trips planned for 2019 and 2020.

“We’re touching more out-of-state alumni than ever before,” she said.

It was at the Clearwater breakfast that O’Malley met Donohoe, a 2012 Carlow Laureate and 1975 graduate with a degree in nursing. “My Carlow nursing degree is the best thing I ever did in my life. It’s given me opportunities in so many different places in my career,” Donohoe said.

After graduation, Donohoe spent eight years as a critical care nurse, but her entrepreneurial spirit, along with a few amazing mentors, called her to do more. She went on to build two nursing staffing firms from the ground up, with both companies becoming premier organizations in the medical staffing industry. Today she does consulting for medical staffing companies, and lately she has become an expert witness for the healthcare industry.

DeMartino-Lerda recalled the Clearwater breakfast when everyone was introducing themselves. “When it was Shannon’s turn, her story was jaw-dropping. Her passion was contagious, and her intellect was wildly impressive. I could literally see the synergy that was happening between Pat and Shannon — exactly what “Carlow on the Road” was meant to accomplish. I knew right then something special was about to happen,” she said.

Donohoe, who will begin serving on the Carlow University Board of Trustees July 1, said O’Malley’s unbridled passion reminded her of herself. “Listening to her story, I felt there was a connection. I felt I could help,” she said.

O’Malley added, “During the breakfast, Pat asked a lot of pointed questions and I thought to myself, ‘She’s definitely being more than just polite.’”

By the end of the conversation, Donohoe extended an offer to mentor O’Malley by helping her compose a business plan for national expansion and a structure for engaging potential investors.

As Donohoe helps O’Malley grow Brick Street Farms, the future includes development of the St. Petersburg Cultivation Hub, a headquarters that will be a unique mix of experiences centered on ethical and sustainable food production. They plan to host farm-to-table-dinners and create a classroom to educate children and adults alike. The hub will triple Brick Street Farms’ production to 12 container farms, growing the equivalent of 24 acres of traditional farm land.

Companies can lease or buy a container farm and, with ongoing support from Brick Street Farms employees, grow and keep all of the proceeds for themselves.

This fall, Carlow University will be the first in the Pittsburgh area to bring a hydroponic farm and its opportunities to the region. Work study jobs, fresh produce for campus dining and retail sales are just a few of the positive outcomes that will result from the container farm, which will be located behind the A.J. Palumbo Building overlooking Forbes Avenue, with an observation window facing the street.

A second cultivation hub is scheduled for Pittsburgh in the Lawrenceville neighborhood by early 2020.

“We cannot be more excited about this partnership and look forward to all the great things to come for Shannon O’Malley, Pat Gimper Donohoe and for all of us here at Carlow University,” DeMartino-Lerda said.

Nicole DeMartino-Lerda contributed to this story.

To learn more about Brick Street Farms, plan a visit or follow the company’s growth, visit brickstreetfarms.com or email shannon@brickstreetfarms.com.
GETTING SOCIAL

Keep a finger on the pulse of Carlow’s digital social scene!

CONGRATS!

@carlowuniversity

Share your Instagram photos and videos with #Carlowgram
@carlowuniversity
AS SEEN ON TWITTER

Tweet us @carlowu

#CARLOWPROUD

facebook.com/carlowuniversity
THE CARLOW CELTICS reached several milestones during the winter/spring season.

The men’s basketball team finished its season on the road against NAIA No. 15-ranked Indiana University East. The team faced several nationally ranked schools throughout the season.

During the regular season, women’s basketball defeated No. 25-ranked University of Rio Grande at home, 70-65. It was only the second time in recent history Carlow has beaten the RedStorm. The Celtics made it to the USCAA quarterfinals, held at Penn State Fayette. Carlow lost, 65-46, to No. 3 Paul Quinn College (Texas). Junior Emma Stille (Columbus, Ohio) earned First Team All-American honors, and junior Delaney Daly (Pittsburgh, Pa.) earned Honorable Mention All-American.

Sophomore Olivia Miller (Bolivar, Pa.) brought home first place in triple jump with a distance of 10.21 meters at the River States Conference (RSC) Indoor Track & Field Championships. The Carlow women’s 4x800 team finished with a time of 10:43.17, which earned them third place on the podium.

On the men’s side at the RSC, freshman Ethan Stroebel (New Castle, Pa.) nabbed second place in the 1000 with a personal best time of 2:42.44. Junior Javondii Myers (Columbia, S.C.) took third place in high jump with a height of 1.85 meters.

Myers tied for first place out of 18 with his best outdoor performance in high jump, clearing the bar at 1.97 meters at the Slippery Rock Invitational.

The Celtics competed in the RSC Outdoor Track & Field Championships April 25-26 and earned several podium places there as well. Sophomore Larissa Kijowski (Dayton, Pa.) placed second of 18 in the 1500 with a time of 4:55.57. She finished third of 25 in the 800, running 2:25.65. Miller placed third of eight in triple jump with a distance of 10.46 meters. She also tied for third in high jump, leaping 1.35 meters. Myers earned second place in high jump, clearing a height of 1.90 meters. Freshman Robert Hoffman (Pittsburgh, Pa.) finished second of 19 in javelin, throwing a distance of 41.62 meters.

Softball finished its season 18-18, 8-10 RSC in fifth place in the conference and advanced to the RSC Championships, May 2-4 in Vienna, W.Va. The top six teams make the tournament.

Women’s tennis celebrated Senior Day April 13, recognizing five student-athletes for their time and contribution to the program.

Men’s and women’s golf competed in the RSC Championships at Belterra Resort in Florence, Ind.

Visit carlow.edu/athletics for everything up-to-date on Carlow Athletics. Follow the Celtics @CarlowCeltics on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Like many sports teams at Carlow University, women’s tennis participates in community service projects every year.

In the midst of a busy regular season schedule, they helped clean up the city with the assistance of Downtown Pittsburgh Partnership and Pittsburgh Cares.

The athletes picked up trash and scraped stickers off public property. According to Coach Sam Lovaglio, senior captain Emily Armstrong and co-captain Justina Jacquillard came up with the idea.

“I wanted to set up something that would benefit our community; since we had a rough winter, many athletes on our team suggested that we do something outside,” Armstrong said.

Armstrong, a double major in biology/studio art and a four-year player for the Celtics, thought spring would be the best time for the team to participate.

“I know being a full-time student is very busy, and since a lot of our players are nursing majors, I thought it would be better to do it this semester instead of doing it in the fall,” she said.

Lovaglio agreed with the timing of the project.

“It’s nice to do a project when the entire team is comfortable with one another,” she said. “The freshmen are practicing and playing with our returning athletes, and they have built relationships.

We’ve previously done projects in the fall, but it always seems to be easier in season.”

Armstrong added, “I think volunteering and spending time with each other really brought us together because we were able to spend the morning getting to know a little bit more about one another and joke around while simultaneously helping the community.”

On the bus ride back to campus, the team was already discussing the next project, Lovaglio said.

“It is the best feeling as a coach when your athletes want to give back,” she said. “Not just as a requirement, but as something they want to do and that’s good for the soul.”

The team also organized a campus-wide collection of toiletry items and lightly worn clothing for the Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

“Service is not only part of Carlow’s values, but is a huge part of our NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) core values,” Lovaglio said. “We discussed the Carlow values of service and mercy, and NAIA values of responsibility and servant leadership during our project. Part of the process is realizing that we are called to do things that are selfless and to give back to the community where we live and work.”

---

Carlow Fund gifts provide essential support to our students, making their educational goals and dreams a reality. Your gift makes a critical difference in helping Carlow enroll and retain students for whom financial barriers can be a roadblock on their pathway to great success.

Make a difference in a student’s life. GIVE TODAY AT CARLOW.EDU/GIVE
On September 24, 1929, 24 young women entered a new women’s college. Seven faculty members—all Sisters of Mercy—were there to educate them in languages, literature, mathematics, religion, history, philosophy, English, biology and chemistry. If it sounds like an impossible task, you don’t know the history of Carlow University.

*Now with more than 16,000 graduates, Carlow is ready to face the next 90 years. Join us for our 90th Celebration this fall!*
NEWS

60s


70s

Carol Awkard Neyland 1973 was invited to be a panelist for the Women2Women National Conversation Tour in Pittsburgh, Pa. in April 2019. Women2Women is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to engaging women across the country in a discussion about shared concerns and goals. Neyland is Senior Vice President of Community Development at Dollar Bank and active on a number of Pittsburgh-area nonprofit boards.

Deborah Diorio Zajac 1974 received a distinguished award for her years of service to Mercy College, St. Elizabeth Health Center School of Nursing in Youngstown, Ohio. The Misericordia Et Cura Award has only been presented three times in the hospital’s history. Zajac received the award as she retired from a 30-year teaching and management career at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Heidi Hylton Meier, DBA, CPA 1977 was named a Fulbright Scholar and completed a Fulbright assignment to Nagindas Khandwala College in Mumbai, India in September 2018. During her assignment, Meier was the keynote speaker at the International Risk Management Conference and conducted seminars for faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students in risk management, fraud and disruptive technologies. Meier currently serves as professor and chair of the Accounting Department within the Monte Ahuja College of Business at Cleveland State University, where she was named the Outstanding Faculty of the Year for 2017-2018 by Beta Alpha Psi and Accounting Association students.

Denise M. Petras, DNP 1979 received honorable mention in Pittsburgh Magazine’s 2018 Excellence in Nursing Awards in the Leadership/Executive category.

80s

Jacqueline A. Collavo, MA, BSN, RN, NE BC 1983 was honored by Pittsburgh Magazine with a 2018 Excellence in Nursing award in the Leadership/Executive category.

Cynthia Blohm Palombo 1989 received honorable mention in Pittsburgh Magazine’s 2018 Excellence in Nursing awards in the Community category.

Alumni ACTIVITIES

For information on upcoming events, visit alumni.carlow.edu.


Jannette Greer 1960 shows off her Carlow pride.
Barbara Knaus Mistick, PhD 1990 will step down from her post as President of Wilson College at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. She will join the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) in September 2019 as President.

Charleeda A. Redman, MSN, RN 1995, 2000 was appointed to the national board of directors of Community Health Charities, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness of and resources for health and wellbeing. Redman is Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Population Health, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in Philadelphia and the recipient of numerous honors.

Theresa Vella Reese, MBA 1995 has enjoyed a successful career in healthcare reimbursement and celebrated 20 years of service with UPMC in August 2018.

Theodore W. Johnson 1997 was appointed chairman of the Board of Probation and Parole by Pennsylvania Gov, Tom Wolf. Johnson most recently served as deputy director of The Program for Offenders, Inc. and an adjunct professor at Point Park University.

Angela E. Dastolfo, MS, BSN, NCSN, RN 1998 received the 2019 Regional School Nurse Excellence Award for the Southwest Region from the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners. Dastolfo has been a school nurse for the Burrell School District for 25 years.

Melissa Otis, PhD 2001 published Rural Indigenousness: A History of Iroquoian and Algonquian Peoples of the Adirondacks in October 2018. After earning an MS in professional leadership at Carlow University, Otis earned a PhD in history of education from the University of Toronto. Her book is available through Syracuse University Press.

Vanessa Gross Dodds 2004, 2008 began her own firm, Connections 4 Success, which provides business strategy consulting for small- to mid-size businesses, nonprofits and the public sector. Her firm presents bimonthly Nonprofit Academy breakfast workshops geared toward nonprofit leaders in Carlow University’s University Commons.

Deborah L. Rice Johnson 2008 was a winner of a 2019 Fox Rothschild Outstanding CEOs and Top Executives award. She is president of Highmark Health Plan & Diversified Business, where she is responsible for providing senior leadership and strategic direction for Highmark’s core health insurance business.

Michelle Seman Sultan 2008 received her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Mississippi College of Law in May 2019. Sultan received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Carlow. She will practice medical law.

Rebecca Gediminskas, DNP 2011 was recognized by Westmoreland County Community College as Outstanding Teacher of the year. Gediminskas previously received the award, which faculty present after considering nominees submitted by students, in 1999 and 2010.

Chardaé Jones 2011 was appointed interim mayor of Braddock, Pa., replacing John Fetterman, who was sworn in as Pennsylvania’s lieutenant governor Jan. 15, 2019. Jones is a business analyst who grew up in Braddock and has volunteered extensively there. The borough council unanimously chose her from five candidates.

James Myers Jr. 2012 was recognized by Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP with a 2018 40 Under 40 Award. The awards recognize 40 outstanding individuals under age 40 whose creativity, vision and passion enrich the Pittsburgh region. Myers began a new role as Director of Community & Business Development for the Riverside Center for Innovation in June 2018.

Deborah L. Mitchum, DNP, CRNP 2014 received honorable mention in Pittsburgh Magazine’s 2018 Excellence in Nursing awards in the Academic category.

Joshua Allenberg, JD 2015 accepted a position as a Lead Analyst at BNY Mellon, Pittsburgh in December 2018.

Alison Davis, MSN, MBA 2018 was honored by Pittsburgh Magazine with the 2018 Excellence in Nursing award in the Emerging Leader category.


Ryan Stemple 2010 and Danielle LaCava 2008 were married Oct. 27, 2018.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Jane Mayleben Young 1946, April 24, 2019.
Gloria Brash Civitarese 1949, April 1, 2019.

50s


Sister Mary Paul Hickey, RSM, PhD 1951, Jan. 16, 2019. Sister Mary Paul founded The Campus School of Carlow University in 1963.


Yvonne MacDonald Kirscht 1958, Dec. 9, 2018.


60s


70s


80s


Susan M. McGinley 1988, April 9, 2019.

90s


00s


FRIENDS


SYMPATHY TO

50s

Regina McDonough Theisen, MEd 1953 for the loss of her husband, Gerard, March 2, 2019.


Maureen Hauf Kane 1957 for the loss of her husband, W. Barry Kane, Jan. 13, 2018.

Faith Valentine Drabant 1958 for the loss of her husband, John, June 1, 2018.


Sister Joan Laboon, RSM 1959, for the loss of her sister, Sister Rosemary Laboon, RSM 1957, January 7, 2019.

60s


Ava Maria Bazzano Dlubak 1966 for the loss of her husband, Frank, Nov. 25, 2017.

Karen Cameron Scanlon, EdD 1966 for the loss of her brother, Dennis Cameron, Sept. 27, 2018.


70s

Rebecca Mullaney Bertoni 1974 for the loss of her husband, Christopher, in 2018.

Elizabeth Waters Crow 1979 for the loss of her sister, Mary Jan Waters 1979, Jan. 20, 2019.

80s


90s

Lugenia Davis Bracero, DNP 1995 for the loss of her mother, Juanita Davis, April 4, 2017 and her father, Lugene Davis Sr., Nov. 7, 2018.


10s

Jaiquette Dennison, MEd 2012 for the loss of her son, Jonathan D. Freeman, Jan. 9, 2019.

Class notes as of April 29, 2019. Share your news with us and we’ll publish it in the next Carlow Magazine. Visit alumni.carlow.edu/ShareYourNews to submit a class note.

REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD!

HOMECOMING 2019

September 20 - September 22, 2019

Join your classmates, fellow alumni, professors, staff, students and the Sisters of Mercy for a weekend of fun as you reminisce, reconnect and enjoy a host of fun activities.

REGISTER ONLINE at ALUMI.CARLOW.EDU