Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The end of each year is a time of reflection as we look back at what we have accomplished—and look forward to what we still must and can do. It is the time to rejoice in the company of family and good friends—and also to hold dear the memories of those who are no longer with us. The holidays are a reminder to all of us to give thanks for all that we are given—and the opportunity to do what we can to ensure that no one goes without.

Here at Carlow, this has been a year with much to celebrate—from the Middle States re-accreditation to our head softball coach Bob Sirko being named United States Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, from the recognition of the research done by our faculty to the career outcomes of our graduates. And at Homecoming, we remembered and applauded the members of the Class of 1966, whose work during the civil rights movement deserves our sincere thanks—as does their generous Legacy Endowment to Carlow’s Social Justice Institutes.

There are so many reasons to be #CarlowProud, and this issue of Carlow University Magazine, focused on community, highlights just a few examples of the impact we can have when we work together to build a just and merciful world. From Chanessa Schuler ’12 who works to develop mentoring relationships for African American male teens to the special bond enjoyed by our university’s athletic teams, from Carlow’s place in the Oakland neighborhood to the work being done by Nikia Tucker ’15, one of our nursing graduates who volunteers with Operation Safety Net, it is exciting to see what is possible when we stand together, value our shared humanity, and embrace our diversity. It is from each other, and from our Catholic heritage and Mercy values, that we get strength and resolve. And, in the new year, it is the respect we have for each other that will make it possible for us to prosper.

By the way, the picture on the front of this issue is a detail from one of the incredible stained glass windows in McAuley Chapel in the University Commons. I hope you will agree that it embodies the joy and light of the holiday season—and reflects a university community that has faith in the future.

I wish you and your family and friends Merry Christmas—and may the holidays and the new year be peaceful and joyous.

Sincerely,

Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD
PLACES and SPACES
an inside look at Carlow’s personal and public spaces

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ALL ABOUT THE QUEST
You may not find the Holy Grail in the office of LOU BOYLE, PHD, but then again, who knows? Because stacked and filed in every nook and cranny of his office, you’ll find almost everything related to the Middle Ages. Boyle is a professor of English and the director of Carlow’s core curriculum. His specialty is, you guessed it, Arthurian literature. So…let the quests begin!

A Talking Monty Python and the Holy Grail action figures remind Boyle—as does Monty Python’s satirical treatment of Arthurian legend—that one cannot take oneself too seriously.

B A vinyl 45-rpm record of the Canterbury Cathedral pipe organ was given to Boyle by a former student.

C A replica of a ninth-century, pre-Christian European chessboard discovered in Ireland. Contrary to common belief, all the pieces are exactly the same except for the leader of the team in the center. Boyle uses the chessboard to demonstrate how early medieval Europeans did not necessarily have the extensive class divisions represented by pieces in modern chess.

D A miniature model of Bran Castle, in Transylvania, Romania—the only Transylvanian castle that fits Bram Stoker’s description of Dracula’s castle. Boyle visited the castle two years ago when presenting a paper at the University of Bucharest.

E The Forbes Field poster also shows Boyle’s grandfather’s house, on the far right, two doors away from Forbes Field. His grandfather worked as an usher for the Pirates for over 45 years and his father was an altar boy for St. Agnes Church—and sometimes served mass in the Convent of Mercy Chapel.
“Papa believed that women should have a good education, just like men... I guess Papa believed in equality for women back then.”

Alice McKeeve Riley ’33, Carlow’s oldest living alumna. [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, August 2016].

“Sexism and racism have been around in politics for a long time.”

Allyson Lowe, PhD, dean, College of Leadership and Social Change, in “How Some Local Pedi Sci Professors are Handling Trump vs. Clinton” (Pittsburgh Business Times, October 2016).

“It made me feel sort of guilty. I’m going to live in a nice home... and there’s generations of people being born in these refugee camps.”


“This is a launching point for a dialogue about people who have been singled out and branded persona non grata.”

Carlow President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, about common reader, “Papa believed that women should have a good education, just like men... I guess Papa believed in equality for women back then.”

Carlow President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, about common reader. [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, August 2016].

Conflict in varying degrees of severity has been with us seemingly forever—at least since Cain and Abel. In a polarized world, can we find common ground? This is an excerpt of a conversation with Carlow University faculty members BILL SCHWEERS, JD, an assistant professor of justice studies in the College of Leadership and Social Change, and MAUREEN CROSSEN, PhD, an associate professor of theology from the College of Learning and Innovation.

Carlow University Magazine: Are we at a point where compromise has become a bad word? Certainly, in some quarters it is.

Bill Schweers: We say we want to compromise but, rather cynically, only if it’s the other side that’s doing the compromising. People think Washington is broken because the politicians from the different parties seem unwilling to compromise, and voters don’t like that. Paradoxically, voters hate it when their politicians compromise with the other side.

Maureen Crossen: The word discussion is based on the same root word as percussion, to make noise. An alternative is dialogue, made from the Greek root word logos: my promise to you. To enter into a dialogue, I have to recognize my pre-judgments, and not bring them to the table.

Carlow University Magazine: It seems as though more people have a voice than ever before. Is it a problem that opinions can be equally disseminated but not necessarily equally researched?

BS: That’s exactly right. This is the logical consequence of our commitment to unregulated and unfiltered speech, which I fully support. To me, the heart of a democracy is free speech, and we should not take any measures to block the blood to the heart. The remedy for speech that seems divisive or hateful is more speech.

Carlow University Magazine: To some segments of the population, documents such as the Bible or the Constitution are to be followed word-for-word without deviation. Is it possible to come to a consensus when it seems these bedrock principles are at stake?

MC: What are the bedrock principles? From Jesus’ point of view, it is to love your enemy. In Judaism slow to anger, demanding justice for the oppressed and the poor, always willing to extend mercy. So, for those folks who take a few scripture passages literally to promote their agenda, I would ask them to elucidate their bedrock principles. Look at the deeper motivation behind and ahead of God’s action in history. For people who are oppressed, such as slaves out of Egypt, that’s pretty clear. Jesus could not be more clear: Love your enemy.

Carlow University Magazine: What’s the role of a university when we have conflict and disagreement?

BS: Carlow is an example other colleges and universities could and should emulate. I’m very proud of our mission statement—of our role in developing leaders committed to creating a just and merciful world. This role is embedded in every faculty member’s course material. It is invaluable. And it is our duty to put it out there.

MC: I also have to lean on Carlow, not only as Carlow, but as a Mercy institution. Very soon after the Orlando attack in June, Dr. Mellon sent us a letter, and I’ve been struggling all summer with the challenges she presented. She said, ‘we talk about a just and merciful world, and very poignantly and pointedly she asked, what are you doing for it?’ And I thought, well, I’m teaching. But there’s probably more.

BS: There’s always more. Online extra! Listen to the full interviews at www.carlow.edu/magazine.
Moustafa Bayoumi’s book How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?—Being Young and Arab in America is Carlow’s 2016 student common reader, selected by Carlow President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, who hopes the book will spark further conversation about injustice in our world today. Bayoumi was a guest speaker during Carlow’s September Academic Convocation.

In addition, members of the Carlow nursing community were recognized for Excellence in Nursing by Pittsburgh Magazine. Nursing faculty Jessica Huber ’10, instructor/course coordinator, and J. Ann Spence, assistant professor, were named as runners-up. Twelve Carlow alumni received awards of excellence, including Angela Balistrieri ’01, ’12; Anthony Battaglia, Jr.’00; Jacqueline Collavo ’93; Amber Egyud ’07, ’08; Loretta Filitske ’90; Dawendra Jones-Hornsby ’94, ’06; Judith Kaufmann ’84; Mary Kish ’92; Marianne McConnell ’75; Joy Peters ’12; Margaret Quinn Rosenzweig ’81; and Shelley Neil Watters ’01, ’04.

Carlow University Theatre (CUT) brought life to the oft-forgotten 1924 comedy Beggar on Horseback for the first two weekends in November, in celebration of Pittsburgh’s bicentennial. The play was written by Pulitzer Prize-winning Pittsburgh playwrights George S. Kaufman and Marc Connelly.

On November 12, in response to what has become a national opioid epidemic, Carlow’s College of Health and Wellness presented “Taking the Pain Out of Prescribing Opioids,” a half-day continuing education conference in line with Centers for Disease Control initiatives on opioid prescription and management of chronic opioid use.

On September 29, Catherine McAuley’s 238th birthday, Carlow students, faculty, and staff tweeted a videotaped message to Pope Francis. Through song and words in Spanish and English they introduced the Pope to Carlow and asked for Catherine McAuley’s canonization.

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New Social Justice Institutes Director Jessica Ruffin, former chief operating officer of Coro Pittsburgh, is the inaugural director of the Social Justice Institutes at Carlow University. The Social Justice Institutes include the Grace Ann Geibel Institute for Justice and Social Responsibility, the Women of Spirit Institute, the Center for Youth Media Advocacy, and the Center for Community Engaged Learning. Ruffin was also recently named a New Pittsburgh Courier Woman of Excellence.

Online extra! Watch the videos at www.carlow.edu/magazine.

Online extra! Check out the video at www.carlow.edu/magazine.
Spend a few minutes talking with sophomore liberal studies major Tevin Scott and you’ll pick up on his love of learning. That’s why the liberal arts attracted him. As did attending a small college in the midst of a vibrant city. But his connection to Carlow goes deeper still.

“I chose Carlow for its dedication to social justice. Social justice is important to me because you can’t have a successful society without it,” he says.

Scott seeks to learn from his classmates and other community members. Although he does not practice any one religion, he participates in activities offered through the Office of Campus Ministry. He enjoys meeting people of different faiths, getting involved in discussion, and sharing his own views.

More than anything, Scott looks forward to studying abroad in Lyon, France in the summer of 2017. A native of Pittsburgh, he feels crossing an ocean will give him a sense of independence, while allowing him to study the French language he loves.

“I’ll gain communication and interpersonal skills,” he says. And maturity.”

Thoughtful and reflective, Scott considers how he’d like to make an impact in the future. As a student of need, he wants other young adults to gain equal opportunities.

“We’re told that school is one of the most important things. For those who are at the bottom financially, like me, it’s getting harder to afford the education that’s so important. And there are lots of students just like me,” Scott says.

He adds: “It’s important to advocate for those who are disenfranchised, for those who don’t have a powerful voice.”
Students rave about Carlow’s beautiful campus—in the middle of the coolest part of the city: Oakland.

Our Oakland neighborhood is filled with a diverse mix of grand architecture and renowned museums; quaint coffee shops and international cuisine; theaters, parks, and countless eclectic treasures. You never know what you might find.

1. Oakland mural by Pittsburgh artist Kyle Holbrook, Corner of Atwood and Sennott Streets. 2. Doors of Oakland celebrates art on the doorways of area businesses. This mosaic by artist Alix Paul graces the door of Tong’s Cuisine, Semple Street just below Forbes Avenue. 3. The Spirit of American Youth, a sculpture by Daniel Chester French, Schenley Park. 4. Locks of love—a trend born in Paris—now adorn the Schenley Park Bridge.

Online extra! Tour Oakland with us at www.carlow.edu/magazine.
Not long after Nikia Tucker started volunteering with Operation Safety Net, she asked herself, “How do you not take this home with you?”

The answer? You can’t help but take it home with you. Not if you have a heart.

Tucker earned her master’s from Carlow’s family nurse practitioner program in 2015 and today works for UPMC in the University Physicians’ gynecological obstetrics and reproductive office. She has spent hours as a volunteer with Operation Safety Net’s Severe Weather Emergency Shelter.

Operation Safety Net is an award-winning Pittsburgh Mercy community outreach program that serves in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, bringing medical care and hope to the homeless on the streets of Pittsburgh.

Research shows that people experiencing homelessness frequently distrust hospitals, says Tucker. “The majority feel they weren’t treated like human beings when they went to the hospital,” she says. She contrasts this with Operation Safety Net’s approach.

“If you’re hungry and around Carlows’s campus, give Sciulli’s a try. Like so many of Carlows’s alumni, you’ll probably go back again. And again. And again.”

Carlow Alum—and Operation Safety Net—Reach Those in Need | BY DREW WILSON

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Carlow Alum—and Operation Safety Net—Reach Those in Need | BY DREW WILSON
Although open to anyone, Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center focuses on mental health patients. In 2015, McAuley Ministries awarded a $125,000 grant to expand and enhance women’s services at the clinic. Subsequently, Carlow University and Pittsburgh Mercy have partnered in the program; faculty provide care while students receive preceptor training.

A Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health clinic across the street often refers patients. “Patients are often referred by caseworkers and other behavioral health specialists,” says Deborah L. Mitchum, DNP, director of Carlow’s Master of Science in Family/Individual across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner program (MSN-FNP). Mitchum is the clinic’s nurse practitioner, specializing in women’s health. “I’ve seen women who have never had a gynecological exam before,” says Mitchum. “Women who are psychiatrically impaired won’t walk into a practice for care just anywhere. Some of them really have special needs. Here, they are accompanied by caseworkers, who make their appointments, watch over them, and make sure they get their prescriptions filled.”

Two Carlow students joined the clinic’s team over the summer of 2016, supervised by Mitchum, in fulfillment of their MSN-FNP degree requirements. They were exposed to gynecological care, contraceptive prescriptions, and cervical cancer screening.

Carlow student Danielle Williams praises the clinic’s work to connect behavioral health needs with primary care. “Women’s care is not easy,” says Williams, who worked at Allegheny General Hospital for six years. “Breast exams and pap smears are uncomfortable. The nursing model is holistic and helps to put women at ease, providing health care that is more like a partnership.”

Kristy Cloonan completed a rotation alongside Williams. A working mother of three, Cloonan is employed by UPMC Passavant Hospital. She expects to finish her MSN-FNP in 2017. “It’s important for a woman to understand the how’s and why’s of her body, which are rather complicated. I like being able to advocate for and teach people how to take care of themselves,” Cloonan says.

Cloonan admires the patient-centered care provided at the clinic. “Medical care is so complex. You need a central place to pull all of the different aspects together—physical, psychological, dental, nutritional, and so on. A team is your best bet,” she says. “This is the future of health care.”

The behavioral health setting has been eye-opening. “I watched with awe as the preceptors interacted with mental health patients, treating them with such patience and respect. I will be taking that forward in my own practice,” Cloonan says, “that’s how everyone should be treated.”

Learning to care for the entire community is what Carlow’s program is all about, says Mitchum. Holistic care is especially important when dealing with mental health diagnoses—which too often complicate other illnesses. “The MSN-FNP program is community-based,” she says. “We teach them primary care. Of people. All people.”

PITTSBURGH MERCY HEALTH CENTER is nestled in the heart of the city’s historic SOUTH SIDE neighborhood. A refuge for at-risk patients seeking primary care, this modest brick building is distinct in its mission to connect patients with a variety of medical specialists. BY ANN LYON RITCHIE
SUMMER SIZZLES ON THE CITY’S NORTH SIDE
this mid-July Thursday. Three teenage boys have
ditched the heat—they’re in the computer lab of a
former school building on West Commons.

The boys are a bit on edge, and yet today’s the
day they’ve been waiting for. It’s time to start
asking questions.

They’re part of Crossing Fences, an oral history
project with deep roots in neighborhoods
across Pittsburgh.

A project of Saturday Light Brigade (SLB) Radio
Productions, Inc., Crossing Fences believes in the
powerful role mentors play in transforming lives
and employs an age-old technique in making these
connections: storytelling.

Since 2012, SLB has linked African
American male teens with male
role models from the boys’ own
neighborhoods. In summer 2016, 41
male students ages 11-18, and 31
men ages 25-69 participated.

The boys ask about career paths,
triumphs, and challenges, and then
write reflections based on their
conversations. In the process, they
learn interviewing, digital recording,
and audio editing skills.

Stories, reflections, and photographs for
each neighborhood are distributed
via public radio, SLB StoryBox
kiosks in libraries and community
centers, and on the website
neighborhoodvoices.org.

Chanessa Schuler, a 2012 Carlow
mass media graduate, is manager
of oral history and youth advocacy
programs for SLB. Crossing Fences
is her baby.

“A lot of these youth need role
models,” she says. “They’re dealing
with things we just don’t know
about. This opportunity can
change their lives.”

The first interviewee today is 35-year-
old Northview Heights native Rod
Rutherford. His story sounds like a
dream to these boys.

Not only did Rutherford graduate from
high school, but he also went on to be
a two-time All-Big East quarterback
at the University of Pittsburgh—and
a Pittsburgh Steeler. Today he’s an
ethics trainer and high school
sports consultant.

The boys ask him his secrets
to success.

“There are no secrets,” says
Rutherford. “It’s about hard work.
Believe in what you want to do. And
don’t let people tell you that you can’t
do anything.”

Rutherford knows it’s tough. He grew
up without a dad—but was fortunate
to have a supportive mom who pushed
him to succeed.

“Playing in the NFL gave me the
opportunity to witness and experience
things, so I can tell people like you that
it is possible. Set goals. Accomplish
the first goal, and it will give you the
momentum to keep going.”

Next up is 27-year-old Towan
Hall, another Northview Heights
native. He’s founder and host of
CommonConversation412 a Pittsburgh
podcast show that provides a voice
for urban communities.

The boys nod along as Hall recalls
what it was like to live with the
knowledge that his father was
in prison.

“There’s some things you get in your
mind that a father should be there for,”
says Hall. “Like sports, or promotions
in school...Not having the support and the love at the
events... sometimes...you know.”

His voice trails.

More nodding.

“Some people are going to try to get
you to do things that aren’t right,” he
says. “But even if you feel like it can fix
a situation temporarily—or it can get
you some cash—don’t fall into anybody
else’s path.”

Sixteen-year-old Taquan Peters is one
of the boys conducting the interviews
today. He can’t get over the fact that
these successful adults were once just
like him.

“He’s a business man. I had no idea
he went through all that,” says Peters.

“Like he says, there are bad people
out there trying to make you do stuff.
It’s good to hear from him. It makes
me think.”

Schuler can relate to some of the
things these boys are experiencing.
When she was 15, her mother passed
away, and she spent her teen years
living in public housing with her sister.

Family members encouraged her to
keep her dreams alive.

At Carlow, Schuler volunteered
annually as part of Alternative Spring
Break. She also developed strong ties
with Carlow’s Youth Media Advocacy
Project (YMAP), which led her to an
internship with SLB and, ultimately,
hers current position.

“It’s about being selfless,” she says.

“Knowing that you have your own
struggles, but putting them aside and
turning to help your neighbor.”

—Chanessa Schuler,
2012 mass media
graduate

Online extra! Link to Crossing Fences interviews at
www.carlow.edu/magazine.
“Don’t believe an accident of birth makes people sisters or brothers. It makes them siblings, gives them mutuality of parentage. Sisterhood and brotherhood is a condition people have to work at.” —Maya Angelou.

Working at their sisterhood—or even just plain working—is familiar territory for the Sisters of Mercy.
“I SAW BEING A SISTER AS A WAY TO BE IN THE WORLD, TO BE OF SERVICE IN THE WORLD, and yet to have the opportunity to cultivate a deep spiritual life,” said Sister Cynthia Serjak, RSM, a writer, composer, and frequent speaker on issues of music and spirituality, liturgical life, and religious life.

From the outside looking in, a deep spiritual life may seem a life spent in quiet contemplation and prayer. There is certainly that aspect, but to dismiss it as only that is to miss so much of what makes the Sisters of Mercy who they are. Their name, “Sisters of Mercy” continues to be synonymous with community service.

The first Sisters of Mercy in the United States arrived in Pittsburgh from Carlow, Ireland in 1843, spending most of their time in the community, seeking the poor, the sick, and the uneducated. The Sisters built schools and, in 1847, opened Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. In 1929, they established Mount Mercy College—which is today Carlow University.

Sister Georgine Scarpino, RSM, PhD is a strategic planning consultant, meeting facilitator, teacher, and former high school principal. She also serves on the Institute Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Sisters of Mercy and is today chair of the board of McAuley Ministries.

“Sister Georgine lists a number of qualities that hold this community together. ‘It’s history for one, but it’s also service to the poor. We’re not afraid to go somewhere and start something. The sisters accepted the invitation to go to Peru. It’s a hard place to live because people are so poor. There is no infrastructure. Just to pick up and go—that takes courage.’

Courage, as portrayed in American popular culture, would rarely be thought of as the act of bringing poor people clean drinking water, but the Sisters of Mercy stand apart in many important ways.

“The first thing would be what we call charism—our spirit,” said Sister Cynthia. “Catherine McAuley built a house in Mercy to take in young women who didn’t have any place to go. We are looking to see who those people are today.”

Sister Cynthia knows about reaching out to those less fortunate. For years, she would share music (on her keyboard) with individuals at area homeless shelters. They made music together—some of which they ended up recording. She says she’s often contacted by others who want to reach those in need.

“The biggest question I hear...is, ‘How can I make a difference in the world for the better, and who can I connect with to help me? I don’t want to do it on my own.’”

The Sisters of Mercy are determined to make those kind of connections. Unfortunately, it’s often not terribly difficult to find people in need in the world today.

“We all have human rights that are God-given to us,” said Sister Jean Murin, a registered dietitian and administrator for 45 years and now the justice coordinator for Mercy Communities of Pittsburgh, Erie, Rochester, and Buffalo, as well as a member of PATH (People Against the Trafficking of Humans).

“We must make sure that everyone has these human rights... It doesn’t make any difference what your race is, what your sex is, what your sexual preference is. We just seek what is good for the individual.”

The Sisters have sought what is good for individuals since their founding in Dublin, Ireland so many years ago. And they’ve been at the forefront of many historic moments in the struggle for human rights ever since.

On March 14, 1965, Sister Patricia McCann, RSM, led a group including more than 20 Mount Mercy College students to Alabama to join the now infamous Selma to Montgomery march in support of voting rights for black southerners.

“I remember one conversation with a Black man who had been with the Marines in two Jima in World War II,” recalled Sister Patricia, who has extensive experience in religious and educational administration and is today chair of the board of McAuley Ministries.

“This man had never voted in his life because when he would go to vote, he would have to take a test, and the test asked him to write the Constitution. It was so clear that the people of Alabama whom we encountered in Montgomery did not want Black people voting.”

In 1968, after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the protests came closer to home.

“The 1960s were scary,” remembered Sister Jean. “Our whole world was changing. One of the memories I have is looking out the window of the 11th floor [at Pittsburgh’s Mercy Hospital] where I lived and seeing the National Guard in uniform with rifles on every street corner and the Hill ablaze. And in spite of the fires and dangers to themselves, they still marched for justice.”

Sister Ferdinand would put up a sign that read ‘The Sisters Will March at 4 p.m. Be at [Freedom Corner].’ Amazingly—almost unbelievably—in spite of all the unhappiness and injustice they have witnessed in this world, to a Sister, they still have hope in the future.

Editor’s Note: Any discussion of community at Carlow begins with the Sisters of Mercy, who remain at the heart of our university. Audio of the full interviews with Sisters Cynthia, Georgine, Jean, and Patricia is available as an online extra at www.carlow.edu/magazine.
John LeGrande was on lunch duty during the sixth annual P.R.O.M.I.S.E. Camp in the Oliver Citywide Gymnasium on Pittsburgh’s North Side when a lanky teenager plopped down across the table from him.

“So, what did I talk to you guys about yesterday?” asked LeGrande, a 6-foot-11 forward on the Carlow men’s basketball team. It’s no wonder he’s known around campus as Big John.

“Discipline” the camper said.

“Exactly,” LeGrande said. “Discipline. Obeying authority. Staying true to your brand—whatever you say you are, that’s what you have to own up to. Keeping your word. Going to college. What college are you going to go to?”

“I want to go to college and play basketball,” the camper said, “at LSU.”

“Thinking big,” LeGrande said, with a grin. “I like it.”

That’s exactly what the camp encourages young athletes to do. The Celtics’ Big John attended Oliver as a freshman and sophomore before graduating from Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School.

“I’m a North Side kid,” LeGrande said. “I’ve been where they are, and I’m past where they are.”

Camps are divided into groups and rotated through stations that include dribbling drills, shooting drills, offensive drills, and speed and strength workouts.

Each day, a different speaker addresses topics such as goal-setting, discipline, and the importance of attending college.

This year, one of those speakers was LeGrande. He says the camp’s mission reflects what he is learning as a team player at Carlow.

“The team motto is ‘All in,’” he said. “That means you do everything you can to stay true to who you are.”

John LeGrande was run by Jakim Donaldson, who plays professional basketball in Europe, in memory of his brother, Jehru Donaldson, who was the victim of gun violence in 2007 when he was just 18 years old.

“Jakim hosts this camp to stand up to gang violence,” LeGrande said. “I’m here because I support everything that he does—giving back to the community and the kids. He is definitely a good guy to look up to.”

Donaldson paid for all the food and start-up costs of the first camp so that children could attend for free. Today, he accepts donations from individuals and businesses. The staff is made up of volunteers who work from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each summer for three days straight.

Carlow men’s basketball coach Tim Keefer has been volunteering since the camp’s inception, and he encourages Celtics players to join him. LeGrande was a natural fit.

“Carlow Athletics is a Champions of Character program, and that’s all about community. If I can give back to a kid and help him learn that message and not fall into some of the traps that I fell into, I want to do that.”
Entering college can be a difficult adjustment, even when everything goes according to plan. But sometimes, even the best-laid plans change.

Junior Sierra Vecchio enrolled at Carlow as a nursing major and planned to play soccer. But the summer before her freshman year, she decided she was really interested in being a physician’s assistant. She decided to switch her major to biology.

She also decided not to play soccer her freshman year—so that she could really dive into her major and maybe graduate early. To stay in shape, Vecchio started running. A lot.

“I ran all around campus, all around Oakland…and I realized that I really enjoyed it!” she says. “And the cross country team girls told me I had good times.”

So, in addition to switching her major, she switched her sport. To cross country, starting her sophomore year.

And she wound up making history. Vecchio broke the school record in the 5K and the 6K, was named the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) Runner of the Week, and placed seventh at the KIAC Championship. She was the first runner in Carlow history to be a conference medalist and the first to be named First-Team All-Conference.

In her two seasons with the Celtics, she has seen tremendous growth in the program.

“We have a lot of new talented runners, and the dynamic is really good. It’s fun to be around them all,” she said. “The coaching staff has really helped us improve. I think in the upcoming years, the program will really take off. The incoming groups are continually better and better.”

Vecchio will graduate this year and is awaiting her acceptance to physician assistant school. Looking back on it, everything about her Carlow career was unexpected, but she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“Carlow is so close knit,” she says. “It kind of feels like a family. The academics are great, and the small class sizes are wonderful. The professors always know you, and they are up to date with what you are doing in athletics. I love it.”

Carlow Cross Country Athlete Makes School History—after Switching Her Major and Her Sport.

BY KRISTIN SEAMON

A Season of Firsts

2016 saw new teams in men’s soccer and men’s and women’s golf. In Fall 2017, Carlow will offer men’s and women’s track and field.

1. Zach Talley, a junior respiratory care major from Finleyville, Pa.
2. Hailey Schleich, a sophomore biology/perfusion technology major from Copley, Ohio.
3. Gregorie Paluku, a freshman communication and media major from Pittsburgh.
WHAT’S IT LIKE TO BE IN A TV COMMERCIAL? MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT’S DIFFERENT ABOUT BEING A CARLOW ATHLETE?

By Kristin Seamon

Kristina Hudock has spent countless hours in the St. Joseph Hall gymnasium. But one Saturday morning this past summer, this Carlow volleyball student-athlete saw the gym in a whole new light. She was invited to star in a commercial that would air in the regional television market during the 2016 Olympic Games.

“The gym was lit up so differently,” said Hudock, a junior early childhood education major from Uniontown, Pa. “I was expecting something small, but there was an actual film crew, and that’s when I realized this was a big deal. It was really cool.”

Hudock was joined by teammates Mia Marmion and Michaela Koran. Their jumps, digs, and sets took center stage. Hudock saw the finished product for the first time while she was watching the gold medal-winning Team USA women’s gymnastics squad.

“My grandma actually called, and she was like ‘It’s on! It’s on!’ My mom was waiting for it and wanted to record it,” Hudock recalled, with a smile. “There was Simone Biles, and then there was Kristina Hudock—Whoa!”

Beneath the glamour was a message Hudock was proud to share: What drives a Carlow athlete. The commercial highlighted values Hudock and her teammates take seriously: Respect. Trust. Dignity. Faith.

“It was exactly what I would want to tell anyone about being a Carlow athlete,” Hudock said.

“My coach respects me 100 percent. Being a Carlow athlete is about playing for something bigger than me—playing for Carlow. None of our jerseys have our names on the back. It’s about playing for respect for the school and respect for each other, and having the Champions of Character attitude while we play. It means being a great athlete and a great person all-around.”

Online extra! View the volleyball commercial at www.carlow.edu/magazine.

What drives you?
Leaving a LEGACY

BY ALISON JURAM D’ADDIECO


This year, as the Class of 1966 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation, they sought to do something different for their alma mater. To create a class legacy.

What they chose to support couldn’t be more fitting. Inspired by a $10,000 galvanizing gift from classmate Norma Jean LeClair, the class raised a total of $73,156. Their legacy? The Class of 1966 Legacy Endowment for the Social Justice Institutes.

The newly created Social Justice Institutes of Carlow University include The Grace Ann Geibel Institute for Social Justice, the Women of Spirit® Institute, the Center for Youth Media Advocacy, and the Center for Community Engaged Learning.

Guided by the mission, history, and traditions of Carlow and the Sisters of Mercy, the Institutes aim to facilitate systemic change by informing practice and educating for social justice. Programs will support faculty research, providing opportunities and securing partnerships for community-based learning, and serving as a conduit for community engagement.

LeClair is thrilled to support the new Institutes.

“Social justice issues are just as relevant today as they were in the 1960s,” she says, “especially issues pertaining to women and race. There is still so much work to be done.”

LeClair knew she wanted to give back for her 50th anniversary. The seed gift for the Legacy Endowment was part of a larger $50,000 gift she and her husband, Robert LeClair, gave to the institution earlier this year.

But what stands out most is the enthusiasm of all of her classmates and the support of the university. Together with classmates Kathleen Pollock Panepinto and Jane Macel Fiere, LeClair spearheaded the class giving initiative, and she hopes the entire process will serve as a model for future class giving.

“Our class reunion committee began Skyping and emailing and trying to figure out what we wanted to do,” recalls LeClair. “We decided if this was going to be a class legacy, then we needed to pick something the class as a whole could get behind.”

Anita Dacal ’69, Carlow’s executive director for university advancement, knew many of the 1966 graduates from their Mount Mercy years together. “They were the movers and shakers on campus,” she says. Dacal created a list of ideas for LeClair—and she and her classmates instantly zeroed in on social justice.

“Social justice was so important to us when we were there,” says LeClair. “As a class in the 1960s, you can’t get more involved than we were then. Because we picked an issue that was important to our class, that really encouraged people to give.”

And they did. They reached the $25,000 needed to endow a fund at Carlow—which included additional support from the Capozzi Kirr Challenge Grant. They also dramatically increased their support for the 2016 Carlow Fund. LeClair is thrilled that she and her classmates could come together to make such a difference in the lives of others. Because for LeClair, education has been life-changing.

When you ask what drives her, she’ll point to those Mercy values—and the education she received as an undergraduate. The scholarship that brought this small town girl from Donora, Pa., to Pittsburgh made a world of difference.

“I would not have been able to go if I hadn’t received a scholarship,” recalls LeClair, who now lives in Philadelphia. “I’ve always had a mind to repay that gift, in some way.”

And so she has—quite generously. She created a scholarship fund in 2013 in honor of her parents—to which she added $10,000 this year. The Angelo Grazzini and Helen Stimak Grazzini Scholarship is earmarked for students from the Mon Valley area. And the $30,000 Norma Jean Grazzini LeClair Challenge Grant doubled new gifts and increased gifts overall to the Carlow Fund.

LeClair reflects on a favorite Benjamin Franklin quote—one her husband memorized as a freshman at Penn—in considering where to share one’s time, talents, and treasures.

“If a man emplaces his purse into his head,” quotes LeClair, “no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

Members of the Class of 1966 present their Legacy Endowment during Homecoming Weekend. L-R: Jane Macel Fiere, Kathleen Pollock Panepinto, Norma Jean LeClair, and Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD.
HOMECOMING 2016

HOMECOMING 2016, October 7-9, was a huge success—drawing the largest homecoming crowd to date. Highlights of the weekend included a popular murder mystery dinner in A.J. Palumbo Hall of Science and Technology—and a trip to Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood to sample local brews and cuisine. Alumni worked alongside current students to pack hygiene supplies for the homeless, and listened attentively as students described their involvement in the 2016 Roots of the Civil Rights tour.

Online extra! Carlow President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD, highlighted exciting new university developments at a Homecoming Town Hall gathering. Read her address at www.carlow.edu/magazine.

1. Class of 1966
2. Corwin Manker and Shallegra Moye ’08
3. Henry Blanker and Virginia Crosby Blanker ’66
4. Nancy Ward Pellock and Margo Hoffman Lane ’66
5. Joan Davis ’56, Shirley Phillips-Marvin ’56, and Nancy T. Brown ’56
6. Chloe Giovanetti ’17 and Hannah Tajuddin ’17
WINTER 2016
CARLOW UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Glock continues to encourage breast
founder of the Glock Foundation,
inflammatory breast cancer. As
Professor Pushing for Clinical Drug
the Catholic Church.
Carol Doyle Glock ’75
was featured in
the University of South Carolina.
of Library and Information Science at
PhD ’73
retired as associate dean
70s
published a book, Adventures in
Ministry, chronicling her work in
the Catholic Church.

80s
Barbara Mistick, PhD ’90 co-authored
the book Stretch: How to Future-Proof
Yourself for Tomorrow’s Workplace
with Karie Willyerd, published by John
Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Julia M. Glencar, Esq. ’93 earned
the Student Bar Association’s 2016
Excellence in Teaching Award and
earned
in 2000
founded
Diversane, an African-American hair
care company whose first product is a
hair dryer Tamiah invented for styling
curly hair. Diversane received $50,000
from the startup accelerator Alphalab
Gear and will be testing its prototype
in Pittsburgh at Phillip Pelusi Salons
and Diva Den.

Jane Gultish Milligan ’03 promoted to charge nurse after
celebrating 18 years as a dialysis staff
nurse at Liberty Dialysis in Baden, Pa.

Lisa Mcclimans Garchar ’04 and her husband, Joseph, married in
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BIRTHS

Melinda Rovan Corall ’05 and her husband, Keith, welcomed a daughter, Julia Marie, on May 31, 2016.

Abigail Schwartz Hodnick ’06 and her husband, Nicholas, welcomed a son, Hayden Nicholas Hodnick, on April 13, 2016.

LaTrenda Leonard Sherrill ’12 and her husband, Tracey, welcomed a son, Tracey Sherrill, Jr., on September 26, 2016.

Legacy Dinner. Scholarship recipients with faculty.
Front Row, L-R: Nakita LaPrade, Emily Evanagelista, Molly Mitchell, Erika Kelleman, Chrys Gabrich, PhD, and Abianna Williams. Back Row, L-R: Danielle Medlin, Michael Balmer, PhD, Kylie Owen, and Alyssa Stilwagon.

Legacy Dinner, Scholarship recipients with faculty.
Front Row, L-R: Kae Coughlin Spark ’56 with Mary Erwin, of her daughter, Ann Lynn Huston, for the loss of her mother, Ida Heh, for the loss of her sister, Barbara Froelicher Flaherty ’58, for the loss of her brother, Donald A. Meckler, ’84, for the loss of her husband, Robin Edward Vereb, July 28, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

40s

Helen Donahoe Drevon ’44, August 27, 2015.
Patricia Bour Kennedy ’44, May 27, 2016.
Anne Bernatonis Allalunis ’47, June 7, 2016.
Roberta Foizey ’03, for the loss of her son, Elliott Helterbran, July 8, 2016.

50s

Naslie Veten ’50, for the loss of her son, James Houghton, Jr., for the loss of her grandmother, Irene Marshensic, of her daughter, Ann Lynn Huston, for the loss of her mother, Rosemary Mucha, and her granddaughter, Risa Mucha, for the loss of her husband, Donald E. Newman, for the loss of her husband, Paul J. Sasko, April 2, 2016.

70s

Molly Dennison Houghton ’74, for the loss of her husband, Charles F. Houghton, Jr., June 2, 2016.

80s

Kimberly Pogozelski Schattauer ’84, for the loss of her husband, George Calvin Gerhard, August 12, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

20s

IN MEMORIAM

30s

IN MEMORIAM

50s

Marcella Martin Link ’51, for the loss of her husband, Harold Link, July 8, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

60s

June Meckler Cox ’63, for the loss of her brother, Donald A. Meckler, ’63, for the loss of her husband, Nicholas, welcomed a son, Nicholas Sherrill, Jr., on September 26, 2016.

70s

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As women, we have the right to be leaders. It’s important for us to achieve and earn our dreams and do what we need to do. People drive me. Their lives drive me. Their talents drive me. And their successes drive me. As long as I can touch lives, I’ll continue to do what I’m doing.

Thin Ice
by Rebecca Cole-Turner

This is the velvet moment when deep darkness lifts across the river along the ridge of the hills beyond.

Perched on the eastern tip of Sycamore Island hugging the shoreline, a flush of mallards breaks out of the tight huddle that has kept them warm and alive overnight in sub-freezing temperatures.

They’re ice skating. One-by-one, like school children in single file formation, each duck slowly waddles out on the fragile ice that has formed around water’s edge.

Overhead, a cloud floats by, palest gray flowing into ripe peach. One duck slips through the ice, as if she forgot to look where she was going.

Nearby Canadian geese awake, leisurely float around as if to greet them, and perhaps suggest that new ice is thinnest and not to be trusted.

REBECCA COLE-TURNER is ordained as a minister in the United Church of Christ. She serves as minister of spiritual formation at Smithfield UCC. Also a spiritual director, she is a Companion of Julian of Norwich (CJN). Her poetry has been published in Hungry Hearts and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Journal. She is a participant in the Madwomen in the Attic Writing Workshops at Carlow University.

“Thin Ice” appears in Volume XXII of Voices from the Attic anthology, edited by Jan Beatty, which includes work from the Madwomen in the Attic Writing Workshops in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

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“Try to meet all with peace and ease.”
—Catherine McAuley, Founder, Sisters of Mercy