Letter From The President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Looking back and moving forward. These two phrases sit at the heart of this issue of Carlow University Magazine and highlight our history, our vision, and of course our mission, which is the thread that links our past with our future.

Part of looking back includes our remembrance of Sister Grace Ann Geibel (p. 22). We mourned her passing as a community at the end of December, and I can say with certainty that her legacy of accomplishments during her 17-year tenure as president will continue to influence Carlow University long into the future.

Our cover picture features the Civil Rights Memorial. The reflections of our alumni who, 50 years ago, joined with hundreds of civil rights demonstrators to march on the capitol in Montgomery, Ala., (pp. 24-33) are powerful reminders of Carlow’s role in advancing the cause of a just and merciful world. While we reflect on the University’s advocacy for civil rights half a century ago, our values are still relevant today, both nationally and globally. Then, as today, the University’s students and faculty have never shied away from advocacy or the pursuit of social justice and change.

I am happy to report that the University is making great progress with the first year of implementation of our strategic plan, Transforming Lives. Transforming Our World, which is noted throughout the magazine with highlights on initiatives and partnerships (p. 42). True to our values, we seek to be of service in the region and beyond (pp. 42-43), to have faculty who are engaged in the classroom and community (p. 36), and to have students and alumni who will change the world for the better (pp. 12-14). Our efforts will be energized by the arrival of new leadership for the academic colleges and for advancement (pp. 41 and 44). It is happening.

Advancing our mission and vision is predicated on securing the necessary resources to support the strategic plan. It is noteworthy that “philanthropy” is a Greek word meaning “love of mankind.” While there is sometimes a misconception that philanthropy comes only from the wealthy, all of us can—and many of us do—give to address need and “pay it forward.” Perhaps the most vocal advocates for the importance of philanthropic support are our alumni and current students. Not only are they beneficiaries of the generosity of others, they are making it a priority to contribute, so that their opportunities are available to others (pp. 16-21).

As President, I know that philanthropic support impacts our ability to provide scholarships, innovative programs, and distinctive opportunities (p. 4), such as experiential learning. Philanthropy provides the margin of excellence for both growth and sustainability.

All the Carlow University faculty, students, staff, and alumni embody the mission of our founders with their entrepreneurial spirit and outward-looking focus. It’s our institutional legacy and the compass that guides Transforming Lives. Transforming Our World. We ask you to join with us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD
President
SUMMER 2015

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ON THE COVER: The hands of Carlow University students touch the Civil Rights Memorial, grazing the names of key players in America’s civil rights movement. The memorial is designed by artist Maya Lin (of the Vietnam War Memorial) and located across the street from the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala.
To the Editor:

I wanted to share some results generated from the fabulous story and layout on Uganda in Carlow University Magazine Winter 2014. Since its publication, we have been contacted by several alumni who recognize the value of their Carlow education and want to help us in our efforts. One alum is working to establish a fund to enable students to participate in international study abroad programs. Another, a speech and language therapist, is helping us to further develop accommodations for children who are deaf. Yet another alum is spearheading a fundraiser at her school.

The article was instrumental in gaining the sponsorship of Pittsburgh Brewing to support a ‘Raise the Roof’ event in the South Side on May 1. And recently, I received word from the general contractor of the school, Silver Memorial Inclusive Learning and Education Center in Opucet, Uganda, that 500 students are enrolled. The idea of an inclusive school in this rural village seems to be not just needed, but appealing to the members of surrounding community.

Two faculty members, Michele Upvall in nursing and Elizabeth Sinteff in special education, will join our team this summer. Michele will be assessing the health care needs of various communities and will be instrumental in informing our future plans for the health clinic in Opucet (on the same campus as the school). Mary Burke’s Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT) group will be collaborating to help fund a dormitory for students who live too far away to walk to school each day (thus reducing vulnerability to trafficking or violence).

Heaven’s Family, a Pittsburgh-based Christian organization, has met with our business faculty and is heading to Uganda to work with Advocates for Children with Disabilities to help mothers of disabled children establish microfinancing loans so they can start businesses in their homes. And finally, Carlow special education students are holding a fundraiser for the ‘Raise the Roof’ campaign (logo designed by Carlow alum Kristen Ritchie)—a Night of Magic that will include the Pittsburgh premiere of Powerful Medicine: Simply Magic, a documentary on how learning magic tricks has helped individuals with disabilities develop or regain cognitive, motor, social, and communication skills.

Sometimes we don’t realize that our efforts make a difference, and knowing that you are helping children and an entire community halfway around the globe is something to be proud of. Thanks!

Susan O’Rourke, EdD
Director, Special Education Programs
Department of Education
Carlow University
Late Night “Bowling”

The local bowling alley is only open 'til midnight on a Thursday. But Carlow students were seeking a different of “bowling” on a cold night in February—the kind that happens when you throw clay on a wheel and form it into unique, handcrafted crockery—perfect for holding some steaming hot lentil or cream of potato soup. So, for the 12th straight year, students joined local artists in Carlow’s clay studio for the annual Bowls in the Night pottery marathon, crafting more than 250 handmade bowls into the wee hours of the morning.

These functional objects d’art were used at a fundraiser, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest’s Empty Bowls Hunger Awareness Dinner, held March 29 at Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland. Empty Bowls patrons paid for a meager meal of bread and soup and then took those pretty bowls home—a reminder that for the more than 360,000 Pittsburghers served annually by the food bank, hunger is very real.
Carlow University mentors, area high school students, and local Bigs and Littles of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh hit the Carlow runway (at The St. Agnes Center) for the sixth annual Fashions for Kids’ Sake show and fundraiser.
Just as the tulips began blooming, so too did our students—with seriously splashy hair shades to match. This spring, hair tones hit just about every spot on the color wheel: sunset orange, electric blue, and pinky-purple stripes. A passing fad? Perhaps, but we’re betting on seeing more bright bangs when students come back to campus this fall.

**Free Speech Wall**

For 10 days in March, Carlow students were encouraged to speak their minds—and put those thoughts out for public consumption. The Carlow chapter of Young Americans for Liberty erected a plywood wall in the Hospitality Garden and solicited community input. Students scribbled quotes, ideas, and even cartoons—some profound—“I will use my life to change and impact others”—others, well, less so—“I ♥ cats more than people.” Photo copyright © *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 2015, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.
Spring on the Green

April showers couldn’t stop the fun: St. Joseph’s Hall gymnasium’s gleaming hardwoods were the perfect venue for photo booths, therapy dogs, cotton candy, games galore, and hula hoops (go, President Mellon!).

The Parking Pinch

Joni Mitchell warns of the time “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot,” but obviously she’s never visited Carlow’s campus. Our corner of Oakland has always been a challenging place for parking, and as today’s commuter students will tell you, when it comes to parking, the times, well, they haven’t changed much.

Parking is an ongoing issue for the Carlow community, and while we embrace our unique blend of resident and commuter students, the swirling numbers can make for some tough calculations when it comes to determining campus parking needs: students gripe about faculty and staff taking the prime spots in the morning, while faculty and staff grumble that even overflow parking can be challenging to secure on high-volume afternoons. With exciting plans in the works to grow and strengthen our institution, one of the first questions on everyone’s mind is “What about the parking?!”

Rest assured, the administration is listening. With new options coming soon (including Zipcar on campus and a PGH Bike Share station a few blocks away), we can only hope that our collective woes will be eased. Now, about that pink hotel and swinging hot spot …
“IT’S A BIG TASK. EVERYONE HAS A FEW ITEMS OF CLOTHES THEY DON’T NEED.”

—Misti McKeheen, class of 2007, in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. Director of PittServes, McKeheen details organizing the Give a Thread campaign.

“SISTER GRACE ANN GEIBEL WAS A GIFT TO HER UNIVERSITY AND THE EPITOME OF THE ALUMNA CARLOW AIMS TO PRODUCE.”


“I’M A FELON, AND YOU DON’T WANT TO BE ONE.”

—Aaron Beam, former HealthSouth executive, telling his tale of white-collar crime to Carlow’s Master of Science in Fraud and Forensics students.

“ON A SATURDAY, DEBORAH MCALLISTER UNEXPECTEDLY WENT BLIND IN HER LEFT EYE FROM WHAT TurnED OUT TO BE A RETINAL HEMORRHAGE. BUT TWO DAYS LATER SHE STILL WENT TO SOCIOLOGY CLASS AT CARLOW UNIVERSITY IN OAKLAND.”

—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 31, 2014. McAllister, 57, graduated in December alongside her daughter, Shala Johnson, 34.

“SHE’S PUTTING ISSUES FRONT AND CENTER THAT MAY CAUSE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO MOVE IN ONE DIRECTION OR THE OTHER, AND SHE’S CAUSING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO RESPOND.”

—Allyson Lowe, PhD, inaugural dean, College of Leadership and Social Change, in a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article about U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren’s potential presidential candidacy.

“I LOVE YOUR COURAGE, ZEST FOR JUSTICE, AND WORKING FOR UNITY.”

—Facebook response to a post commemorating Mount Mercy College (Carlow University)’s participation in the 1965 civil rights march on Montgomery, Ala.
try to be like those rivers
that enter the sea without losing
the sweetness of the water,
- Catherine McAuley
Greenery comes alive in the spring and summer, with buds and leaves and blossoms stretching for miles along the footpaths and gardens of Carlow University. Here, the leaves create a canopy over the Discovery/Quest Garden (also known as the waterfall patio).
A collection of short stories and poems about various extreme events

BUBBLE GUM AND RANDOM VIOLENCE

Photography: Kate A. Michaud

Gang Violence

Carlow University Magazine

12
IN SEARCH OF THE WORLD’S
TRUE SUPER HEROES

CARLOW UNIVERSITY was just what Rachel Fitzgerald was looking for: a big-city school with an even bigger heart. At Carlow, this talented photographer from small-town Zelienople, Pa., would discover the world. She would also learn how to change it.

Fitzgerald transferred to Carlow her freshman year and quickly immersed herself in the Pittsburgh arts scene. She joined Artful Souls, a group of arts- and culture-seekers wishing to emphasize spirituality. She crawled through local galleries, visited The Andy Warhol Museum (alongside adjunct art professor Nicole Dezelon), and filmed The Identity Project, a YouTube video sponsored by Carlow’s LGBT and Allies group.

She also traveled to Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic as part of Carlow’s “Never Again: A Holocaust Remembrance Tour.”

As she grew as an artist and a student, her world view began to shift.

“I realized that I can utilize photography to help recognize the underserved population,” she says, “rather than to serve people who can afford to have their own portraits taken.”

During the summer of 2014, Fitzgerald enrolled in New York University’s annual Photography and Human Rights Program, a joint project of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and the Magnum Foundation which encourages students to create documentary projects in pursuit of human rights.

As she ventured into the heart of New York City in search of stories, Fitzgerald fell in love with the residents of Brooklyn’s Flatbush neighborhood, perched at the crossroads of slick gentrification and gritty inner-city life. It was there that she met Tony Gonzaga, a young victim of gang violence with an incredible story to tell.

Seven years ago, when Gonzaga was just 15, he was stabbed in the eye with an eight-inch blade while he was sitting on a city park bench. His attackers made off with his iPod, five dollars, and his bubble gum. Gonzaga was left partially paralyzed—and with astronomical medical bills.

To cope, Gonzaga became fascinated with superheroes like Spider-Man. Though he’d lost use of his dominant hand, he taught himself to use the other hand, and began creating detailed drawings of his cartoon heroes. When Fitzgerald saw his creations, a lightbulb went off.

“Together, we can make him the hero of his own story,” she says.

Fitzgerald and Gonzaga worked to create a prototype digital comic book, a mixture of his illustrations, her photographs, and actual documents (like his x-rays). They’re calling it Bubble Gum Libre—a title that pays homage to his survival and his Mexican-American heritage.

“WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND WHAT WE’RE DOING TO CHANGE IT, USING THE TIME WE HAVE AND THE GIFTS THAT WE’RE GIVEN.”

—RAChEL FITZGERALD, BA ART THERAPY ’14

“Libre” is Spanish for “free.”

“We want to make a comic book that can reach kids who have been victims of traumatic injuries,” says Fitzgerald, “to help them see that they are heroes, too.”

Fitzgerald graduated from Carlow in December 2014 and, though busy applying to graduate school, she continues to research the benefits of comic books and graphic novels in helping young victims like Gonzaga.

“We need to think about what’s wrong with the world and what we’re doing to change it, using the time we have and the gifts that we’re given,” she says. “It’s a challenge, and an amazing opportunity.”

SUMMER 2015
FIGHTING FOR FINLEY

A Carlow Nurse Envisions a Cure for LCA

JENNIFER PLETCHER knew her then three-year-old daughter, Finley, was having a tough time seeing. The signs were all there. Finley was a bit clumsy, stood way too close to the television, and had this curious way of tilting her head sideways when she looked at her picture books.

A 1997 graduate of Carlow University’s School of Nursing, Pletcher suspected Finley needed glasses. What she didn’t know was that glasses would never help.

After multiple doctor visits and numerous tests, Pletcher learned her daughter had Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis (LCA), a rare genetic eye disease. Twenty different types of LCA have been identified, but only 4 percent of all LCA cases in the United States—about 75 people—have the same type as Finley, known as RDh12 after the affected gene. There is no cure, and every child who has LCA—no matter the type—ends up blind.

“There were two very big organizations for retinal degenerative diseases, and neither of them were doing funding for Finley’s type,” says Pletcher. “It just wasn’t on their radar yet.”

Pletcher and her husband, Mat, were told they had little choice but to wait for research to get around to the type of LCA their daughter has.

“That didn’t sit well with either Mat or myself,” says Pletcher.

“You don’t lay down and do nothing for your child.”

But what to do and where to start?

“It was very overwhelming,” says Pletcher, who recalls those beginnings five years ago. She was working full time as a school nurse, while Mat worked full time as a geneticist and director of rare disease at Pfizer, Inc. They also had two other children to care for.

“Our lives turned upside down with this diagnosis.”

Their first goal was to take care of Finley, giving her all the resources she needed to function in a seeing world. Then they began learning as much as they could about LCA, including attending conferences, where they met Jean Bennett, MD, a University of Pennsylvania researcher who had discovered a cure using gene therapy for one type of LCA.

Together with the other families who had children with the same type of LCA, they formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit, RDH12 Fund for Sight, and began fundraising. In just a few months they presented Bennett with a check for $70,000—the amount she needed to start the research into Finley’s type of LCA.

“Over the last four years, our foundation has grown from four families to 18, with 21 kids diagnosed with RDH12,” says Pletcher. “We have become a tight-knit group. We spread out over the United States and overseas. We have raised $1.2 million in that time.”

The foundation has been able to fund another researcher, Debra Thompson, MD, at the University of Michigan, and they hope to be in clinical trials soon, but they need about $1 million more to make those trials a reality.

“We wanted to make sure we reached as many kids with RDH12 as we could,” says Pletcher.

Pletcher also has no doubt about where her resolve to fight for Finley originates.

“My experiences at Carlow helped shape my life and my attitude,” she says. “Being at a college that promoted strength in women made me realize I could do anything I set my mind to. Carlow makes strong nurses and strong women ... we were taught to be leaders. When Finley was diagnosed, I built on that strength, and knew that I could do this ... and that I had to do it.”

Originally from Connellsville, Pa., Pletcher lives in Littleton, Mass., with her husband and children, Arlington, 11, Cainan, 8, and Finley, also 8. She reports that Finley is doing very well, some five and a half years after her initial diagnosis.

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Carlow University

UNIVERSITY COMMONS

DEDICATION CEREMONY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
In both word and deed, philanthropy begins with love.

Young Philanthropists

PAYING IT FORWARD

RIGHT FROM THE START
In both word and deed, philanthropy begins with love.

Certainly that’s true of the word itself, rooted in the ancient Greek, which translates as “love of mankind.” And at Carlow, the act of philanthropy is nurtured in the University’s historic mission of service. Philanthropy directly impacts not only the University itself, but also the lives and futures of each individual it touches.

Philanthropists grow here. They graduate and thrive. And they choose to give back.

Creating Opportunities

“Quite simply, Carlow changed my life,” says Margaret Haselhoff, class of 2010, who works in development for a Pittsburgh-area nonprofit and who, as a donor to her alma mater, is a budding philanthropist. “When I transferred to the University, I had no real understanding of what I wanted to do. Carlow exposed me to opportunities I never knew existed.”

As a professional writing major, Haselhoff took classes that forced her to grow emotionally as well as technically, and she also learned about societal issues impacting the community.

“Carlow taught me that we all have skills to help change someone’s life. I learned what I could do to improve our community,” she says. “I met some of the strongest women in my night classes—women who were balancing school, full-time jobs, and families.”

Haselhoff is a proud supporter of The Carlow Fund, a year-round campaign with a mission to keep Carlow University affordable, competitive, and strong.

“Part of the reason I give is because I want all of those women to have access to their education so they can continue to inspire those around them,” says Haselhoff.

All donations to The Carlow Fund become unrestricted income which can be used by University leadership to address immediate unforeseen needs and take advantage of unique opportunities. A large majority of the funding, says Carlow Fund Director Aoife S. Toomey, is used to underwrite financial aid packages.

“This funding helps create a foundation of financial stability for many of our students,” says Toomey. “Then it plugs the holes and fills in the gaps.”

The gaps, says Toomey, are areas that don’t always come to mind, but which make a world of difference for so many students. Like a vast array of ADA compliancy fixtures—such as ramps. Or reliable vans to transport students to extracurricular activities. Or newly-refurbished dorm rooms with comfortable, up-to-date furniture.

And for young alumni not yet able to make large gifts, The Carlow Fund is an important way to give back, while simultaneously increasing the value of their degree. No gift is too small.

“CARLOW CHANGED MY LIFE.”

–Margaret Haselhoff ‘10
Devoted Carlow Fund donor Keri Baker ’10 wants to ensure that others have the same personalized experience she received.

“At Carlow, I was not a number, the last four digits of my social security number, or the 34th person with the same initials,” emphasizes Baker, who says her undergraduate grades weren’t all they could have been, despite earning straight As in high school. “Carlow gave me a chance to redeem myself and prove that I’m not the person my undergraduate college transcripts reflected.”

After earning a 4.0 in Carlow’s MBA program, Baker went on to obtain what she terms “her dream job” and now wants to give back to her alma mater.

“That master’s degree helped me stand out from the rest,” she says. “I feel like others should have the opportunity to get that chance to prove they are a good investment.”

Ashley Kunkle, class of 2011, couldn’t agree more.

As a Carlow student, Kunkle was active in student government, Campus Activities Board, New Student Orientation, and Women in Communication. Her life became busy quickly—at times, she feared, too busy.

“I often struggled to balance the demands of school while working to cover college expenses,” she says. “At the time, I didn’t realize that was a familiar story for many of my peers.”

But many lingering concerns disappeared quickly with the unexpected good news that she had received a scholarship. That’s when she realized that there were people she had never even met who cared about her success.

“Generations of people invested in Carlow and its students before me because they believed in the mission of the University,” she says. “Their gifts allowed for me to gain a personalized education at an institution that continues to rank best in class.”

Like Baker and Haselhoff, Kunkle gives to The Carlow Fund. “As an alum,” she says, “my degree maintains its value when other benefactors continue to believe in the mission of the university where I received it.”

“VERY SIMPLY, I’D LIKE TO SAY, ‘THANK YOU,’ TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THIS FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ME.”

—Tammie Krepp, Social Work Student
generations of young men and women have been impacted by the generosity of those who've supported their alma mater. Students like Kunkle will never forget how it felt to receive that scholarship: it was life changing. It was inspiring.

Tammie Krepp, a social work student who transferred from the Community College of Allegheny County, is a part-time adult student. She knows too well what it’s like to balance life with school. Scholarships help her make dreams a reality.

“Knowing that the social work program at Carlow is the right fit for me, I feel deeply grateful for having been given the opportunity to begin my undergraduate studies as planned,” she says. “Very simply, I’d like to say ‘thank you!’ to those who have made this funding available to me.”

Some day, she’ll be able to give back, too.

“As I continue to pursue my career in social work and develop professionally,” says Krepp, “I plan to help others to reach their full potential and to improve their quality of life.”

Jeremy Peter Hopper, an English/secondary education student in the class of 2017, hopes to carry Carlow’s mission into Pittsburgh area high school classrooms, shaping generations of area teens. His scholarship helps him realize his dream. And he wants to pay that kindness forward.

“Receiving such generosity absolutely inspires me to give to others,” he says. “Without the help of this scholarship, I would have much trouble finding ways to continue my education, so I feel the need and desire to give back in any way possible.”

Junay Gay-Young, a nursing major in the class of 2017, says scholarship support has “granted her the reality of higher education.” As a current student, she’s already reaching out to those less fortunate.

“Because of the scholarship I received, I am able to give back,” says Gay-Young, who, as vice president of the Black Student Union at Carlow, helped organize the group’s recent donation drive to support the Hope Center, a local women’s shelter.

Carlow students continue to benefit from generous philanthropic efforts that support University programs. The Beard Scholars program and Woman of Spirit® Honors Scholarships are a perfect example.

Longtime Carlow supporter Eugene P. Beard has again generously contributed to the University’s honors program—a move that thrills Sylvia Rhor, director of the Beard Scholars program and co-director of the honors program.

“I am simply ecstatic,” says Rhor, an associate art history professor at Carlow. “I have been able to witness firsthand the tremendous and life-changing impact the Beard scholarship has had in the lives of Carlow’s students.”

Beard’s gift will help maintain and expand the Rose Marie Beard Woman of Spirit® Honors Scholarships program, which offers scholars a one-on-one mentoring relationship, a study abroad experience, tuition assistance, and a Capstone Award to help fund graduate school or other post-graduate study opportunities.

“The scholarship has nurtured and supported promising young women to help them become competent and compassionate leaders in the world,” says Rhor.

Originally established in 2002, Beard scholarships have helped more than 60 Carlow students enrich their academic lives, including Sarah Hemminger, a nursing student from Somerset, Pa.

Thanks to the scholarship, Hemminger was able to study abroad in Ireland—an experience that greatly impacted her worldview.

“Receiving this scholarship has been such an honor for me,” she says. “Studying abroad was an amazing experience that had a huge impact on the person I am today.”

Over the years, Beard scholars have studied in Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, England, Greece, India, Italy, and Tanzania. They have also dedicated themselves to research—from a study of lactation practices in new mothers to an in-depth look at biodiesel as an alternative fuel.

The scholarship program was created in honor of Beard’s mother, Rose Marie Beard, whose formal educational opportunities were limited after the death of her parents. The eldest of seven children, Rose Marie assumed a parenting role for her younger siblings. Though she never had the opportunity to attend Carlow, Beard believes his mother would have succeeded at the University. In creating the scholarship, he wanted to honor his mother’s dedication to her family and her values as a “woman of spirit.”

“I am very proud to say that Carlow’s Beard scholars do justice to the memory of Rose Marie Beard through their work, both inside and outside of the classroom,” says Rhor.

Beard, a Pittsburgh native and chairman and CEO of Westport Asset Fund, Inc., received an honorary doctorate from Carlow at last year’s commencement ceremony. He is known for both his commitment to professional ethics and his support of higher education. This most recent gift of $250,000 aims to support three Beard scholars each year for the next five years.

After graduation this May, Hemminger plans to work as a critical care nurse. She says the experiences made possible by the Beard scholarship continue to impact her outlook and choices as she moves forward. “The life lessons I learned will remain with me for a lifetime,” she says.
Support The Carlow Fund

When students like Krepp, Hopper, and Gay-Young graduate, The Carlow Fund is an accessible means for them to give back. Because as alumni like Haselhoff, Baker, and Kunkle point out, any degree of generosity counts. It doesn’t matter if they aren’t yet able to endow a scholarship. They can help the University meet those unforeseen immediate needs. That’s important, too.

“Sometimes we can be fearful that our gift is not large enough to make an impact,” says Haselhoff. “But a donation of any amount will impact the life of a Carlow student.”

Adds Kunkle, “we often get wrapped up in the dollar signs of donating to our alma mater. We are intimidated by making a gift because of circumstances like repaying our student loans or because our first job out of college doesn’t pay well. But we have to realize that the amount of our giving doesn’t matter as much as our action of giving.”

That action of giving is rooted in the human desire to care for others, an attitude that is genuine and selfless.

“If Carlow helped you in your life,” asks Baker, “wouldn’t it make you feel good to pay a little of that forward? I do. I don’t give a lot, but I give some every fundraising drive because when those students call me, I want to show them that they aren’t in this alone.”

You don’t have to give thousands of dollars to help someone, Baker points out. “No dollar amount is too small,” she says. “Every dollar means something to the students who benefit from a Carlow education.”

“RECEIVING SUCH GENEROSITY ABSOLUTELY INSPIRES ME TO GIVE TO OTHERS.”

—Jeremy Peter Hopper, English/Secondary Education Student
CARLOW RELIES ON THE GENEROSITY OF ALUMNI AND DONORS
to provide sustained funding so that the University can, in turn, provide the kind of resources and
support our students need in order to thrive. Scholarships, grants, lab equipment, research seed funding,
travel funding—these things and more are all a direct result of the generosity of our donors.

Annual Giving: The Carlow Fund

Your annual gift to The Carlow Fund is critical to our financial health. Your contribution provides the University with immediate, unrestricted support for our most important activities as well as the flexibility to respond to our most critical needs. This means that you are investing directly in the Carlow experience: supporting student scholarships, propelling educational priorities, and driving innovation.

And your gift to The Carlow Fund factors into the University’s accreditation and ranking, so by giving, you directly impact Carlow’s image, reputation, and the current marketable value of your degree. The number of alumni donors to The Carlow Fund is as important as how much is contributed. Participation counts, irrespective of the amount you give. For more information please visit www.carlow.edu/thecarlowfund.

Planned Giving

By including Carlow in your will, designating all or a portion of your assets to the University, you are following in the footsteps of the Callaghan family’s 1822 bequest that made possible Catherine McAuley’s establishing the Sisters of Mercy. Recent legacy gifts have had an enormous impact on the University. The late Rita McGinley’s bequest provided the lead gift to bring the University Commons project to reality. We encourage you to seek the advice of your lawyer or financial planner and to work with us to determine the most tax-wise way to provide a legacy gift. In some instances, a planned gift might even reduce your taxable income during your lifetime, if you are approaching retirement. Some planned gifts can make Carlow the recipient of an annual distribution for a period of time before the investment returns to your family. Donors who choose to remember Carlow in their will are permanently recognized with induction into the Callaghan Society.

Major Giving

At Carlow, a major gift investment is $25,000 or above. Typically these gifts are made after careful discussion and collaboration with Carlow’s administration and support your special interest in programs and/or people and in helping provide resources for new initiatives outlined in the University’s strategic plan. Many of Carlow’s named and endowed scholarships started as major gifts from donors who have a long history of supporting and championing the University. And with any endowment, the wonders of compound interest and responsible fund management allow Carlow to stay competitive by providing a continuous, sustained stream of funding in perpetuity.

Corporate and Foundation Giving

Carlow’s advancement team works closely with Carlow alumni, friends, and the University’s board members to leverage relationships in the corporate and foundation community in Pittsburgh and around the world. We rely on our friends to help us identify and assess opportunities for corporate and foundation investment in the University’s signature programs. Gifts from corporations and foundations help build an important bridge between the academic work of our students and faculty and their respective communities of practice while also allowing Carlow to remain competitive within the marketplace. The generosity of our corporate and foundation partners positions the University to better respond to market trends and strategic imperatives while still investing in emerging program initiatives as they arise.

Gifts of Time

We’ve all heard the saying “Many hands make light work,” and at Carlow we know it to be true! Gifts of time and talent help make even the largest projects that much more manageable. Carlow relies on volunteers like you to ensure a strong and healthy future for the institution—whether you’re mentoring young students or planning an event with the alumni office, the unwavering dedication of volunteers positions the University for continued success. Interested in becoming a volunteer? Visit www.carlow.edu/volunteer today!
Carlow University President Emerita Sister Grace Ann Geibel, RSM, PhD, passed away on December 24, 2014, at the age of 77.

A graduate of Mount Mercy College, Sister Grace Ann Geibel’s more than three decades of service to the institution as a faculty member, department chair, academic vice president, and president touched the lives of thousands of students and influenced the direction of Catholic higher education for this region and beyond.

“Sister Grace Ann’s legacy will certainly live on here at Carlow,” says President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD. “We will always remember her commitment to innovation and growth, justice and social responsibility, and she will continue to be upheld as a model of Mercy leadership.”

Sister Grace Ann stepped down from Carlow’s presidency in 2005, after serving 17 years in this role. As president, she provided leadership during a time of substantial growth for the institution.

“In her own inimitable style, exuding a caring warmth and the can-do spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Grace Ann’s vision to transform Carlow College into Carlow University became a reality,” remembers Anita Dacal, a graduate of the class of 1969 and Carlow’s executive director for philanthropy.

In addition to securing university status for Carlow, Sister Grace Ann spearheaded the capital campaign for the A.J.

Editor’s note: Sister Grace Ann Geibel, RSM, PhD, passed away just after the winter issue of Carlow University Magazine was released to print. We are happy to share thoughts from the Carlow community in tribute to Sister Grace Ann and her remarkable generosity of spirit.
Summer 2015

**Carlow’s Choirmaster**

*By: Ellie Wymard, PhD*

As a classical pianist, Sister Grace Ann Geibel believed that each person has a song. By appreciating individual voices, she created a Carlow choir. As choirmaster, she imbued confidence, then stepped to the side allowing the choir to soar with new tones.

At heart, Grace Ann was an artist. She loved innovation, surprise, and good news. If forced to talk about her managerial style, she laughed and said, “Honey, I just do what I have to do.” Her intuition was to trust an atmosphere of freedom as the best place for fostering responsibility, talent, and creativity. She deplored pomposity, self-importance, and self-righteousness. Academic hierarchy often embarrassed her.

The singular achievement of Grace Ann as president—as choirmaster—was her ability to affirm the complex and varied experiences of all those who form the Carlow community. She embraced all of us. She listened, absorbed, and responded. She knew no other way to be. Her legacy is not only in bricks, mortar, and program development, but in the manner she showed us the meaning of praise. Grace Ann saw the world as an elaborate comic opera—a celebration of love and absurdity, and ultimately of hope and faith. These are the resources against the vicissitudes of life, and, at the end, Grace Ann knew these vicissitudes very well.

May she rest in peace.

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Palumbo Hall of Science and Technology to help meet a national need for educating women in the sciences.

Throughout her presidency, Sister Grace Ann helped position Carlow as a leader in the regional education market: she championed the launch of the accelerated learning program for working adults; supported the expansion of the institution to satellite campuses in Greensburg and Cranberry; and facilitated the formation of the Women of Spirit® program, which continues to recognize outstanding women who, as community leaders, exemplify the Carlow mission.

“She was always attentive to those in need in the community,” recalls Mellon. “She lived and led the value of Mercy and challenged the systemic oppression in our world—and the Grace Ann Geibel Institute for Justice and Social Responsibility was created to support this vision.”

The establishment of The Geibel Institute in 2004 allowed for the ongoing support of a women-centered approach to leadership. Today’s Institute seeks to challenge systemic oppression by engaging students, faculty, staff, and the community in research, education and service-learning, and outreach.

Sister Grace Ann’s legacy—her commitment to her faith and her community—has left an indelible mark on thousands of students, Carlow, and the region.

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A portrait of Sister Grace Ann by Associate Professor of Art William DeBernardi hangs in the entryway of Carlow’s A.J. Palumbo Hall of Science and Technology.
MONTGOMERY AT 50

Civil rights workers had been there for more than a decade, of course, organizing bus boycotts and marches and sit-ins in support of racial integration and equal rights. By 1965, efforts had reached their zenith: John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was there; Rev. C.T. Vivian of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was there; and of course Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was there.

WHO WHAT WHEN of the Civil Rights Movement

JULY, 1948
President Truman signs Executive Order #9981 ending legalized segregation.

MAY, 1954
Brown v. Board of Education: U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules segregation in public schools unconstitutional.
So, too, were Liz (Canterna) Douglass ‘67, Kathy Gibson ‘65, Donna (Roefero) Henke ‘67, Catherine McClanahan ‘65, Barbara (King) O’Connor ‘66, Barbara (Getsey) Palso ‘67, and Linda (Elston) Wolfson ‘65.

Together with more than 20 other Mount Mercy College students and chaperones—including young professor Samuel Carcione and college administrators Sister M. DeLellis Laboon, RSM; Sister Marie Josepha (Patricia) McCann, RSM; and Father Xavier Carroll—the young women heeded the call to join the now infamous Selma to Montgomery march in support of voting rights for black southerners.

Mount Mercy students scrambled to catch one of three charter buses in Oakland on Sunday, March 14, 1965, and departed into the dead of night, bound for Montgomery, Ala.

**Planting the Seeds of Protest**

Students at Mount Mercy did not suddenly take up civil rights in the spring of ‘65; on the contrary, many had been involved in planning and direct action protests for years.

“For a small school, we had a tremendous commitment to the civil rights movement,” remembers Linda Wolfson. “It wasn’t just going to Montgomery, we were going to the Hill District every week to meet with the United Negro Protest Committee (UNPC).”

“Over Thanksgiving the year before, there was a nationwide ‘Thanksgiving Fast for Freedom,’” says Sam Carcione. “The idea was that students would skip a cafeteria meal at Thanksgiving and the school would donate the money to support hungry families in Mississippi. Mount Mercy students started a big campaign that took off—only a few people ate dinner that year!”

In December of ‘64 the UNPC organized direct action protests against Pittsburgh’s downtown department stores. “The only black people working there were the people working at night, cleaning and doing repairs,” recalls Wolfson. “So when we approached these stores and asked them to end the practice of job discrimination, Gimbels resisted. Well, we had picket lines wrapped around the block every night, and lots of Mount Mercy girls went down there. We picketed every night, and we broke that store.”

**The Call to Action**

Though change was happening in Pittsburgh, circumstances in the South grew more dire by the day.

In July of 1964, Selma Judge James Hare issued a sweeping injunction forbidding the gathering of three or more people under the sponsorship of civil rights organizations such as SNCC or SCLC. By January of 1965, civil rights leaders were determined to break the injunction. And so began the 1965 marches in Selma, Ala.

Demonstrators—including the likes of Dr. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and Rev. Vivian—were routinely arrested. Tensions escalated throughout January and February as demonstrators clashed with police. The assassination of Malcolm X in New York in late February only added to the worries and anxieties.
“WE ARRIVED AND SAW THE CONFEDERATE FLAG FLYING ABOVE THE AMERICAN FLAG, AND I KNEW WHAT WE WERE UP AGAINST.”

The “Bloody Sunday” march on March 7, 1965, was shown on televisions around the country; for some it was the first they’d seen of police brutality against nonviolent protesters.

One week later, Mount Mercy students were called to action. “On Sunday we got a call from a Mount Mercy priest who was already there,” remembers Wolfson. “He was involved in the demonstrations in Selma and he said, ‘This is happening. Students are getting involved. Tell people about it.’ And so we did, and the plan to join him came together in a matter of hours.”

“We had to get permission from our parents before we could go,” recalls Donna Henke. “It was chaos, everyone was trying to reach their families. I called my house and said, ‘I’m going to Alabama.’ I didn’t really ask, I just said I was going, and they sort of said ‘Whaat?’ but they let me go.”

Henke’s parents weren’t the only ones taken by surprise. Barbara Palso’s, who lived in New Jersey at the time, were less than thrilled to hear from her. “That call was not well-received,” she says with a laugh. “This was not an age when you just picked up the phone to call somebody. Calling home was a big deal—and calling collect was even bigger!”

“Many of my classmates wanted to go to Alabama, but were not given permission,” remembers Liz Douglass. “It was a dangerous time. Reverend [James] Reeb had just been murdered in Selma and one week later Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was murdered. When I called home, my mother said no, but my father asked me, ‘Do you feel you have to go?’ and when I said yes, he had the strength and faith to say to me, ‘Then go with my blessing.’”

For nearly 30 Mount Mercy students, permission was granted. “The plan was to go to Montgomery so that the SNCC marchers could meet up with the people coming from Selma,” remembers Sister Patricia McCann, RSM. “Then we would all go on to the capitol.”

Confronting Reality

“It just felt like we were on another planet,” says Cate McLenahan, recalling her first moments in Alabama.

McLenahan and her fellow students had been traveling virtually nonstop for nearly 24 hours, driving through Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee; when they got to Alabama they were eager to stretch...
their legs. “I remember crossing a road to use the restroom at a Mercy hospital,” she says. “People driving by recognized us as out-of-towners coming in to support the civil rights movement, and you could see on their faces, they were not happy to see us. One truck stopped and waved us through the crosswalk to let us pass. Then suddenly the driver stepped on the gas—hard—and tried to run us over. For the first time in my life I thought someone was trying to kill me.”

Wolfson remembers a similarly chilling experience. “We were at a rest stop in Birmingham. We’d just arrived, and someone came to the front of the bus and said, ‘You can’t get off this bus. There are people here who will hurt you.’ And that was my reality check. Before that moment I felt good, I was with people I knew, I was doing this thing that I knew was morally right, but I didn’t really have an appreciation of the magnitude of the situation until then.”

Barbara Palso, too, found herself startled. “Somehow the images of the dogs and the horses and the fire hoses and the hate-filled faces of the segregationists, I didn’t make the connection between that experience and the one I was headed into,” she recalls.

For McCann, the tone was set when they drove by the capitol building. “We arrived and saw the confederate flag flying above the American flag, and I knew what we were up against,” she says.

The March

After arriving in Montgomery, the students bedded down late Monday night at a large Baptist church in an all-black neighborhood; chaperones were offered beds or couches by the neighboring parishioners. “We didn’t really sleep much,” remembers McClenahan. “People were everywhere in that church—in the pews, aisles, on the floor. Cars with sirens went by all night long, and we were panicked that the police were raiding the church.”

“I remember hearing barking dogs all night long,” says Wolfson. “And now I realize: people had those dogs to protect themselves.”

**Staggering Statistics**

In 1964, clerks in Dallas County, Ala., recorded 15,115 black citizens over the age of 21; only 325 were registered to vote. Numbers like these were not unusual throughout Alabama in the early 1960s, and in neighboring counties, the statistics were even worse: Lowndes County recorded 73 percent of the total population as black, zero were registered to vote in 1961. Wilcox County was the same that year: 70 percent black, 0 percent registered to vote.

The statistics are not surprising when one considers the endless series of hoops a black citizen was required to jump through to register to vote: registration was only open every other Monday, and only for a few hours; in some places registrants would have to be “vouched” for in-person by another registered voter; so-called “literacy tests” included obscure questions pertaining to state and federal governments; some would-be registrants were required to write out passages of the Constitution as they were dictated—or more likely, mumbled—to them.

Counter-demonstrators express their disapproval of President Lyndon Johnson and a number of other causes. “Get the beatnick bums out of ‘Bama” declares the sign on the far left. Many Mount Mercy students remember feeling startled by the hate and aggression expressed by white citizens in Alabama. Photo by Glen Pearsy, courtesy of the Library of Congress (image number afc2012040_060_11).
But by daybreak on Tuesday, students and chaperones awoke feeling refreshed. Some were invited into the homes of local black families for breakfast; others made their way to a nearby “colored only” café with fellow students from Pitt and Duquesne.

A 10 a.m. meeting was called, and students were reminded of their objective and purpose. “We were a nonviolent group, and if anything happened we were supposed to just put our hands over our heads and not cause any problems,” says Palso.

“I’ll never forget the words of the SNCC leaders before we set out on the march,” says Douglass. “They said to us, ‘You may lose your life on the streets of Alabama today. Are you ready?’”

“The first thing we did was march from the church to Alabama State University,” says Carcione. “We made our way through campus picking up more and more people,” he remembers.

“It was great to see how happy these students were to see us, they were just streaming out of classrooms and buildings joining us along the way,” says Henke.

“There was a lot of confusion over whether or not we had a permit to march,” remembers McClenahan. “I never really found out what the truth was.”

“We had a permit to march through the school, but no permit to march to the capitol,” wrote Kathy Gibson in a letter to her family dated Thursday, March 18, 1965.

Still others recalled otherwise. “To the best of my knowledge we did in fact have a permit to march,” says McCann.

The group of demonstrators was rapidly growing and advancing on the capitol.

“Our spirits were high, and the mood was joyful and purposeful,” remembers Barbara O’Connor. “As we left the black neighborhood, and entered the white neighborhood, the tone shifted … but we kept our focus.”

White students marching side-by-side with black students was very much part of the plan for the day, recalls Carcione. “SNCC was well aware that if you had white people in a demonstration, it was less likely that people would get beat up. We were SNCC’s insurance policy.”

“I think we started feeling courageous,” recalls McClenahan. “We were organized in groups, everybody was singing. It wasn’t until we saw the line of police with clubs and guns and dogs that things got scary.”

“All of a sudden, there was chaos.”
Chaos in the Streets

With the capitol just three blocks away, the march slowed, and a tension fell upon the crowd. “We got to a point where we couldn’t advance any further. The police completely surrounded us,” says Carcione.

It wasn’t only the police who surrounded the demonstrators: the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse, a group of deputized cattle ranchers on horseback, were there, too, and they were eager to enforce their particular version of law and order.

A small contingent of a few dozen marchers led by SNCC’s James Forman tried to circumvent the barricade, but instead of addressing the splinter group, the mounted deputies charged the main crowd.

Bedlam erupted.

“All of a sudden, there was chaos. People were running everywhere, and I remember not knowing who was with me and who was against me,” says Palso. “It wasn’t that we did anything wrong, the police just kept coming.”

“Everyone scattered,” remembers O’Connor. “But as the crowd fled, police pursued, beating anyone in their path with billy clubs and whips. I remember running down an alley, frantic to escape.”

Gibson’s letter recounted much of the same: armed, advancing riders followed by chaos and terror. “The mob panicked and piled on top of each other;” she wrote. “We ran down an alley, but the posse chased us, trying to club the people helping the hurt. We thought we were safe—but the police jumped over walls and chased us further.”

Miraculously, only one Mount Mercy student was hurt that day (Joanne Schoonmaker ’67 sustained a foot injury after being trampled by a horse), though many credit the brave actions of their fellow marchers with saving them from a worse fate.

“I remember this arm coming over my head, it was massive, and the person who belonged to this arm said ‘Don’t be afraid, we’re getting out of here,’” recalls Palso.

McClanahan experienced a similar close call. “People were moving fast—running—but everyone had their arms linked together. That’s what saved me. I stepped into a pothole and sprained my ankle badly, but I was pulled along by others who didn’t let go of me.”

Henke, too, recognized a fellow demonstrator for his brave, bold action. “There was one great big guy—he looked like a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers—who got between me and someone with a club. They hit him instead of me. I’ll never forget the sound of that club on his bones, it was horrible. He definitely saved my life,” she says.

Though the initial charge against the demonstrators was dangerous, it was the sustained, violent pursuit of the marchers that haunted many of the participants.

“These riders were up and out of their saddles, leaning over and bending down, trying to hit people,” recalls Wolfson.

“When the horses charged, we were supposed to wrap our arms around the necks of the people beside us and keep our heads down,” says Douglass. “It was hard to keep my head down with all that was happening, so I looked up, and I remember looking to my right seeing Father Carroll holding onto the reins of those horsemen. The police were just beating him, hitting him with their clubs, and he was saying to them, ‘Enough, that’s enough.’ And then I turned my head to the left and I saw reporters taking pictures and filming the action. It was so surreal.”

Carcione remembered demonstrators taking refuge on nearby porches, thinking that the elevated platforms, coupled with the overhanging awnings, would protect them from the posse. “One horse even went up on a porch so that a rider could beat some people. There were a lot of bloody heads that day,” he says.

Mount Mercy nursing student Antonia (Toni) Merlo ’65 (left) escorts wounded protester and then Juniata poet-in-residence Galway Kinnell away from the protest site as mounted riders follow closely behind them. Photo by Glen Pearcy, courtesy of the Library of Congress (image number afc2012040_046_43).
A Visit from Dr. King

The demonstrators were pushed back away from the capitol, and the Mount Mercy students slowly found one another, but they were by no means out of danger.

“The police had us cordoned off,” recalls McCann. “We had no idea what would happen next. There was one guy who made his way out into the street. He sat down in the street and a policeman on a motorcycle ran right over him. I couldn’t believe it. My dad was a policeman. I just couldn’t believe what I was seeing.”

Carcione recounted the same terrifying moment. “The police blocked off the street, but some people went and sat down—a cop on a motorcycle ran over one kid. Ran right up his back. It was horrible. Behind every window in that neighborhood that night there was someone with a gun—for their own protection,” he says. “We were able to get on a bus and go home. The people in Montgomery couldn’t go anywhere.”

For some, it was not just the actions of police but also their attitudes that left indelible memories. “I remember seeing this young cop guarding a stretch of sidewalk,” says McClenahan. “He was maybe my age, maybe a little older. And I remember looking at him and thinking there was no way I could talk to this person. He just would never allow it. He could never see me as a human being.”

“The rest of the day is kind of a dream,” says Henke. “We ended up in this church and there was just so much going on. People were singing and giving speeches, and out of nowhere came all this food—it was like the loaves and the fishes, it just appeared!—and people started whispering that Dr. King was coming.”

Indeed, Dr. King did come.

“It was like God was walking down the street,” says Carcione with a laugh. “I have never seen anything like that in my life. A hush fell on the street when Dr. King arrived.”

“De was all really upset,” remembers Douglass, “We’d been through so much with those horses charging, and everyone was still very on edge, but I’ll never forget standing in the back of that church and listening to Dr. King. I felt so safe in his presence, he was so charismatic and he spoke with such warmth, he calmed us all down. Peace—he gave us a sense of peace.”

“The news cameras came, too, when Dr. King arrived,” recalls McCann. “CBS, NBC, they were all there, and immediately the attitude of the police changed. Dr. King thanked us for coming, thanked us for our efforts, and gave us a piece of advice: ‘When you leave,’ he said, ‘don’t leave with buses that show the name of a northern city. List a southern city as your destination.’ So that’s what we did.”
Homecoming and the Aftermath

Mount Mercy students climbed aboard their charter bus. The sign read “Raleigh,” but their final destination was Pittsburgh, and the specter of the day’s events was still fresh in their minds.

“As soon as we crossed over the Mason-Dixon line I felt safe again,” says Douglass. “I don’t remember much about the bus ride, but I absolutely remember a feeling of relief when we crossed back to the North.”

Students arrived in Pittsburgh dirty and exhausted. Some headed for the showers then slipped into bed; others called their families to report on their safe return. Still others were asked to write about their experience while it was fresh in their minds. Gibson’s letter reads: “The whole day seems now to have been a terrible nightmare. I still see the horses and cops and clubs coming at us ... As to what we accomplished, I don’t know.”

Others were less circumspect.

“The sun was shining today,” Douglass told a reporter from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette the next day. “And as I looked out at Fifth Avenue, I thought, ‘There’s a street I can cross any time I want to, I’m free.’ And then I remembered the people who live there and have to stay there.”

“It was back to business as usual in some respects,” says Carcione. “Though some people were more determined than ever to influence change, some kept working on civil rights, and a number of students joined the Peace Corps. They just felt like they had to do something.”

McClenahan was one such student. “It was Mount Mercy that gave me those ideas that we had social responsibility. I signed up for the Peace Corps, and when the riots happened in ’67 and ’68, I was in Kenya, teaching at a girls’ primary school. Just seeing those pictures made me feel like it was the end of the world.”

“The civil rights movement was the most important thing I’ve ever learned from,” says Wolfson. “It truly, truly changed my life. It changed me in a way that couldn’t be reversed,” she recalls.

“Marching ... was a pivotal and transformational experience for me,” says O’Connor. “I am grateful for the idealism and social justice that was encouraged by my education at Mount Mercy College.”

“IT TRULY, TRULY CHANGED MY LIFE. IT CHANGED ME IN A WAY THAT COULDN’T BE REVERSED.”

APRIL 11, 1968
The Civil Rights Act is signed into law, prohibiting discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, nationality, and gender.

JUNE, 1968
Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated after winning the California presidential primary.
Looking Back, Moving Forward

Luckily, the story of Mount Mercy students and the civil rights movement does not end there. Professor Linda Schifino, PhD, keeps the conversation going with today’s Carlow students as part of a special communications course she offers titled The Roots of The Civil Rights Movement.

The pedagogical approach, she explains, is simple. “Social movements are reliant on public communication. In order to educate society about an injustice, to argue for change in the way we view societal norms, and to stand up for opposition, social advocacy requires effective communication and skilled communicators. From speeches to protests to media coverage, public communication is the vehicle for creating social change.”

Students partaking in Schifino’s class don’t merely read the cornerstone texts and supporting writings of the civil rights era; they make the pilgrimage to the South to walk through history and meet the people who experienced the events firsthand.

Over a series of nine days and covering more than 2,000 miles by bus, students visit the people and places who changed American history forever: they learn about the Bloody Sunday attack by walking across the Pettus Bridge with Joanne Bland, who at age 11 participated in the historic march; they visit the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968; they sing freedom songs with Rutha Harris, one of the original Freedom Singers; they talk with Minnijean Brown-Trickey, a member of the Little Rock Nine, about her experience being escorted into school by members of the 101st Airborne Division.

“I can’t overstate how important it is for our students to meet these people,” says Schifino. “The importance of oral history, the importance of keeping these memories alive, it’s so vital, because these folks aren’t going to be around forever, and it’s significant that we hear their stories, we remember their stories, we respect those stories, and we keep telling them.”

Students feel the impact of these experiences immediately. “One of my favorite parts of the tour was talking to Juanita Abernathy,” remembers Gloria Marshman ’12. “She just gave me the urge to do the same kind of work that they did back then—she just made me want to go into the community and organize.” Abernathy’s husband, civil rights leader Rev. Ralph Abernathy, was Dr. King’s closest friend.
“Hearing the speakers was powerful, and so was being in the same places as the leaders of the movement,” says Ceree Wilkerson ’13. “Walking in the same exact steps as they did in the march, being in the same pews that they sat in, that was very inspiring.”

Christina McLachlan, ’12, was similarly moved. “I learned that it was the consecutive, small efforts of many people that made this huge change, and it really shows how much one person can do for the world,” she says. “I’ll never forget walking into that hot church and seeing Rutha Harris. All of a sudden she stood up and her voice exploded into that church. I can’t even put it into words to summarize how much that moment meant to me emotionally and spiritually.”

“A lot of the time on the trip I spent staring out the window and being appreciative of the freedoms that I do have,” says Wilkerson. “I realized that people may die but their ideas and beliefs never do ... it’s easy to forget that people serve purposes, and their purposes leave meaning and lasting impressions on others.”

Kathleen Kelley ’14 remembers a small but poignant exercise conducted by Joanne Bland as the students crossed the Pettus Bridge. “She had us all pick up a rock,” Kelley says. “And she said, ‘Somebody who walked on Bloody Sunday was holding that rock—and now you’re holding that rock.’ And she said that whenever we saw struggle, or felt like we were never going to make it or things were never going to change, we should look at that rock and know that we can change whatever we are facing.”

“Learning about this history is critical for our students,” Schifino explains. “It helps them to better contextualize the distrust and the fear that many people experience when confronted by government or law enforcement officials today. It exposes the pain. Because you can’t understand today’s racial landscape without understanding the history of the civil rights movement.”

For many of the Mount Mercy participants in the 1965 Montgomery march, their experiences in Montgomery set them on a lifelong path toward fighting for justice and compassion. Carcione remained heavily involved in the civil rights movement in Pittsburgh and in Washington, D.C.; Wolfson, too, campaigned for civil and women’s rights, and today she sits on the board of the Community Forum for Economic Justice in South Bend, Ind. Henke uses opportunities that arise from her work as a music teacher in the Penn Hills School District to promote cross-cultural understanding among her students, and Douglass recognizes that Mercy values exhibited in the 1965 march influence her work as a clinical psychologist in Arizona.

And still there are thousands of unnamed Mount Mercy alumni whose work has transformed the lives of people in Pittsburgh and around the world. In fact, many of today’s Carlow students are able to attend college precisely because of the efforts of the women and men who came before them and fought for social, racial, and economic justice. But the fight is not yet over; the stories and struggles of today’s students are no less poignant, no less moving, no less challenging than the events of March 16, 1965—they simply have yet to be written.

**Extra Credit**

For more information about the civil rights movement, we recommend:

- *Bending Toward Justice: The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy* by Gary May
- *The Selma Voting Rights Struggle and March to Montgomery* by Bruce Hartford
- *Freedom Summer* by Bruce Watson
- *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America* by Nick Kotz
- *Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s Through the 1980s* by Henry Hampton, Steve Fayer, and Sarah Flynn
- *Freedom’s Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970* by Lynne Olson
- *Coming of Age in Mississippi* by Anne Moody
- *Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years* by PBS/American Experience

**JANUARY, 1969**
Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, is sworn in.

**OCTOBER, 1969**
The Supreme Court orders the immediate desegregation of all U.S. public schools.
MILES SUNDER ’18

A member of the University’s inaugural men’s basketball team, the Carlow Celtics, Miles Sunder has been described as bright, energetic, and hardworking. He hails from Jeanette, Pa., where he was a star player for the Jayhawks. This season, for the Celtics, he played in 18 games, and started in 12, logging a total playtime of 411 minutes. Obviously, he’s a busy guy, but we managed to get him to hold still long enough to capture this shot!

Essential Stats

- Class of: 2018
- Sport: Basketball
- Position: Forward
- Height: 6’6”
- Points scored this season: 121
- Rebounds: 78
- Fueled by: PASTA!

- Sports and Academics, Academics and Sports:

  Sunder’s major is business management and he enjoyed his first course in the major: Intro to Business Management. He’s pursuing this degree with sports in mind—his eventual goal is to start a sports clothing company.

- Where Everybody Knows Your Name:

  When he visited Carlow, Sunder immediately liked the campus. Now, as a student, it is the community he enjoys. “[Carlow] is a place where everyone knows one another,” he says. “It’s a friendly and welcoming school.” When asked what he likes best about being a Carlow Celtic he says, “traveling with the team—the bus rides!”

- The Game/Gaming:

  One of the reasons Sunder chose Carlow was because he knew that, even as a freshman, he’d get lots of court time during games. And, so far, he hasn’t spent much time sitting down. Coach Tim Keefer calls Sunder “a tremendous young student athlete,” who, though he’s younger, and 30-50 lbs lighter than the players he’s up against, continues to “hold his own” on the court. Competitive? you bet! When not on the court or in the classroom, Sunder likes to unwind by playing video games with his friends. He’s best at Call of Duty … and NBA 2K, of course!

- Bigger, Better, Faster:

  The guys Sunder is up against on competing teams are usually three or four years older than he is. About competing against bigger guys, Sunder says, “it’s something that’s a challenge for me not only physically, but mentally. My body goes through a lot.” It may be a challenge, but Sunder doesn’t seem to sweat it. His pregame ritual sounds totally Zen. “I just listen to music and just relax,” he says, “and watch the girls play, if they play before us.”

RACHEL MANGINI
GINA WEISS ’93

A Key Player at ROOT Sports

GINA (DRZAL) WEISS ’93 has a very important job in the sports-obsessed city of Pittsburgh.

“Basically, I ensure that all the pieces are in place so that when viewers grab their remotes and click on ROOT Sports, they can watch Andrew McCutchen hit a game-winning home run or Sidney Crosby score on the power play.”

As ROOT Sports Pittsburgh’s operations manager, Weiss oversees the budgets and logistics involved in broadcasting more than 250 live sporting events each year—from securing mobile production trucks and support equipment to hiring technical crews and working with arena and stadium personnel.

Weiss joined ROOT Sports (then known as KBL) almost 24 years ago. Back then, the sports media industry wasn’t as female-friendly, but a connection at Carlow helped her get a foot in the door.

“The marketing director at Carlow at the time was friends with one of the hosts of SportsBeat, a popular sports talk show,” says Weiss. “She persuaded the talent to set up an intern interview for me with the show’s executive producer.”

Once in the door, Weiss interned for school credit. She knew she was accepted into the male-dominated field when she was hired as a part-time production assistant, later becoming full-time in 1994. Since then, she’s worked as a graphics operator, editor, audio technician, technical director, and show producer.

“Although I really liked the creative side of the business and the adrenaline rush that comes with live television, I was looking for a new challenge,” says Weiss about her eventual transition to production and then operations.

At first, Weiss found her new position in operations extremely overwhelming.

“There were so many plates to keep spinning and so many balls to keep in the air,” she says. It didn’t take her long to develop relationships with vendors, key personnel at the venues, and ROOT’s team partners. She discovered a knack for coordinating events and solving problems.

Part of that knack is treating people the way she’d like to be treated—a core value that was reinforced by her experience at Carlow University. “Here’s my secret,” she says. “I am authentic in my interactions. I really listen to people, and I truly do care about them. They, in turn, start to think of me as Gina, the person, not their client or customer. They truly feel badly if they have to tell me ‘no.’”

Weiss also credits Carlow’s communication faculty for helping her develop the skills she needed to navigate the corporate world.

“Tom Hopkins, Chrys Gabrich, and Michael Balmert taught me how to work independently, as well as the importance of being part of a team. They also encouraged me to always ask questions and think outside the box.”

“The television business is tough,” she says. “Getting a break comes down to who you know or being in the right place at the right time. With me, it was a combination of both, and with hard work and dedication, I showcased my talents and value and shoved open that proverbial door.”

“The campus was an oasis that helped this small-town girl transition into ‘big city’ life.”

—GINA WEISS, BA COMMUNICATION ’93

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LAURA C. RIHN
“AT CARLOW, WITH THAT DEGREE IN BIOLOGY, YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE.”
—STEPHEN BORECKY, PHD

STEPHEN BORECKY, PHD

The Evolution of a Biology Professor

STEVE BORECKY is a storyteller. This veteran biology professor has been captivating Carlow students for the past 36 years.

Borecky didn’t initially envision himself in higher education. He thought he’d have his own private medical practice. But after a brief stint teaching middle and high school science, and working as a teaching assistant while in graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, he discovered his true calling.

“I love teaching,” he says. “And I know I made the right decision—I’m a hypochondriac. If someone came in with a pain, I would have said, ‘You know, I think I have that, too!’”

Borecky’s easy rapport and sense of humor keeps students engaged. And Carlow’s small size makes it easier to really guide students.

“Carlow has given me the opportunity to teach,” he says, “and to me, teaching is more than merely passing on information in 50-minute segments. By definition, teaching implies that the student is given not only information, but the guidance and training to use that information.”

Larger schools can be impersonal, he adds. “There is minimal teaching there, no feedback, and no real opportunity to talk to students. At Carlow, we have an open-door policy, lots of feedback, and much smaller class sizes.”

Borecky directs two unique programs at Carlow: perfusion technology and autopsy specialist certification.

Perfusion technologists (aka extracorporeal circulation specialists) operate heart/lung machines during surgeries that require a patient’s heart to be stopped. Autopsy specialists participate in forensic investigations and autopsies in coroners’ offices and pathology departments and might work within the federal, state, or local government.

At Carlow, both specialized programs offer students the rare opportunity to earn a bachelor of science degree in biology alongside their certification. The autopsy specialist/biology degree combination is the only one in the country, while the perfusion/biology degree program is one of only 16 nationwide.

Adding a biology degree to certification is the key, emphasizes Borecky, because it “opens all doors for you, and allows you to find your own path.”

“You just never know where you’ll end up,” he adds. “In the past, when you started a job after graduation, that was it. It was your career. Not anymore.”

Today’s students often change their paths, he says. Borecky recalls one alumna who, after a successful career in her field, returned to veterinary school and is now a practicing vet. Another decided to return to medical school and is a resident at UPMC Mercy.

“You’ll be surprised where you’ll end up,” he says, “and at Carlow, with that degree in biology, you can go anywhere.”

Happy to be where he ‘ended up,’ Borecky, too, is open to change. His style of teaching has evolved, for one thing.

“I’m a draw-it-on-the-board kind of person, but I realize how technology can enhance what I do,” he says, referring to countless digital resources he can pull from the web and use as interactive visuals in the classroom.

“I have a new backdrop,” he laughs. Life has changed in other ways, too, he says. His friends—and spouse—often kid him about his newfound passion for classical music.

“My wife thinks I’m nuts,” he says. “When I was younger, it used to be the Stones or the Beatles. Now it’s Baroque classical music. I started using it as background music while I work. Now I listen to it all the time.”

When he’s not teaching or listening to his music as he commutes from his South Hills home, Borecky dabbles in photography, target shooting, and woodworking. Another sign of the times? He finally traded in his trusty 35 mm Pentax film camera for a brand-new digital Canon SLR.

“We all evolve over time,” says Borecky. What else would you expect from a biologist?
The Carlow Fund closes the gaps between opportunity and reality. Your investment ensures that Carlow University is positioned for success.

Make an impact: show our students, faculty, staff—and the world—that you’re #CarlowProud!

Give today at www.carlow.edu/give.

For more information, please contact Aoife Toomey at astoomey@carlow.edu or 412.578.6654.
Keep a finger on the pulse of Carlow’s digital social scene by checking out updates like these at www.carlow.edu/social.

Behind the scenes with President Suzanne Mellon, PhD on the set of a video in support of our LGBT students and the commitment to creating a welcoming and safe learning environment.

Happy Monday from our campus snowman!

The calm after the storm.

Carlow master’s student Kimberly Snyder received the Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship, to support and encourage students to “pursue a career in children’s media and further the values and principles of Mister Rogers’ work.”

Carlow men’s basketball team members volunteered at the Ammon Recreation Center in the Hill District!

The 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Photo by Megan McGreevy, a student participant in the Never Again: A Holocaust Remembrance Trip.

The Carlow Express: It's a whole new trip!
Former Mount Mercy Library on the third floor of Aquinas. The painting on the wall was done by Sister Clare Besterman, an original faculty member, as her master’s thesis. It now hangs in the Motherhouse.

“It’s not too often you can say you’re the first ever. Once you take a chance, you can’t look back.” —Coach Tim Keefer

Huge congrats to the more than 200 students who graduated during Winter Commencement!

Happy St. Paddy’s Day! #CarlowProud

Thanks @CarlowU student-athletes for helping to make Beth Shalom sports banquet such a hit in Squirrel Hill. —via @astockey WTAE, Andrew Stockey, WTAE.
ELLIE WYMARD, PHD, ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

“The end of an era” is a phrase sometimes tossed about lightly. With Ellie Wymard’s announcement that she will retire in June as director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Carlow University, it truly is the end of an era.

“Ellie has been the heart and soul of the MFA program and has built a high-quality graduate program that enjoys an outstanding reputation in academic and literary communities within the United States and abroad,” says Deanne D’Emilio, JD, Carlow’s interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Launching one successful program is an accomplishment for any career, but Wymard’s fingerprints are on several at Carlow.

The first was more than 40 years ago, when she started the Women’s Studies program in 1972. While pursuing her doctorate in American literature at the University of Pittsburgh, Wymard realized that most academic resources came from the male perspective. She spent much of her career trying to change that.

In an interview with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette she stated, “It wasn’t that women weren’t writing. It wasn’t that women weren’t painting. It was just that their work wasn’t in the traditional canon. It wasn’t part of the traditional curriculum.”

Wymard also introduced Carlow’s Madwomen in the Attic poetry workshops, Marie Torre Lecture, Honors program, and Focus on Women lecture series. The author of four books and many critical essays, her fourth book, Talking Steel Towns: The Men and Women of America’s Steel Valley, drew praise.

“The writing is beautiful,” wrote Post-Gazette columnist Dan Simpson. “It sent me—and will send many Pittsburghers—spiraling into the past of a childhood filled with stories of the lives of relatives who worked ‘down the mill.’”

Wymard has been featured on radio and television shows and has spoken before both professional and general audiences about her work. She was featured in the Drue Heinz Lecture Series where she interviewed author Amy Tan in front of an audience of 1,200.

Other distinguished accomplishments include being a finalist for the Athena Award, a Distinguished Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth speakers program, and an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Carlow.

Though Wymard’s shoes will be hard to fill, Carlow plans to continue her legacy of excellence and build on the remarkable programs she has established.

WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL TELLS A CAUTIONARY TALE

Aaron Beam, co-founder and former chief financial officer of HealthSouth and author of two books, Ethics Playbook: Winning Ethically in Business and HealthSouth: The Wagon to Disaster, hopes others can learn from his success ... and his failures.

Beam spent three months in federal prison and lost his CPA credentials after playing a role in HealthSouth’s $2 billion securities fraud scandal. He presented his cautionary tale to Carlow University graduate students on February 27, 2015, at an event hosted by Carlow’s Master of Science in Fraud and Forensics and MBA programs.

“I think others can learn from my story,” says Beam, “from how I started a major company, got involved in the fraud while serving as CFO, and, more importantly, the human story of the pain of going through a scandalous trial and to prison.”

Beam helped co-found HealthSouth in 1984, and the company grew to be the nation’s largest provider of outpatient surgery and rehabilitative services, with revenue eventually exceeding $3.5 billion.

But in 1996, the company only earned about 90-95 percent of what was expected. That’s when the criminal activity began. Beam and his lead accountant began fixing the books with support from the company’s CEO, Richard Scrushy. They assumed that the next quarter’s profits would make up for the fudged numbers, but they were wrong. The fraud continued under Beam for a whole year before he resigned.

Even after Beam’s departure, the fraud continued until 2003, when HealthSouth was finally caught in the act. At a 2005 trial, Beam and the four other CFOs testified against Scrushy. Beam was sent to a minimum-security prison and remained there for three months.

“The pressure to make earnings, to make money, can lead you down a path where you shouldn’t go,” says Beam.
INaugural Deans to Lead Carlow University Colleges

Three inaugural deans will lead the newly restructured Colleges of Health and Wellness, Learning and Innovation, and Leadership and Social Change.

Lynn George, Ph.D., RN, CNE—College of Health and Wellness

Lynn George has been serving as associate dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Robert Morris University since 2006 and as a faculty member there since 2003. In her more than 25 years in academia, she has held numerous faculty and leadership positions, including department head for the nursing program at the Community College of Allegheny County—Boyce Campus.

“With her professional experience, outstanding skills, and demonstrated ability to collaborate successfully both internally and externally, we’re certain that Dr. George will be a tremendous asset in her role as dean.” —Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Deanne D’Emilio, JD

Matthew E. Gordley, Ph.D.—College of Learning and Innovation

Matthew E. Gordley has been serving as associate dean of academics at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia since 2011 and as a faculty member at the institution since 2005. He has held numerous faculty and leadership positions in his nearly 12 years in academia, including as chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Regent University.

“Dr. Gordley is a visionary thinker committed to student success and an enhanced educational experience, which will provide our students with a competitive advantage when they graduate from Carlow.” —Carlow University President Suzanne Mellon, PhD

Allyson M. Lowe, Ph.D.—College of Leadership and Social Change

Allyson M. Lowe has been serving as interim dean of the College since 2014 and as a faculty member at the University since 2009. She has held numerous faculty and leadership positions in her 13 years in academia, including as director of the Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy for five years and as the Elsie Hillman Chair in Politics at Chatham University.

“Dr. Lowe is an established academic leader who is well-respected within the campus community and beyond. She is deeply committed to Carlow’s growth and to fostering an environment where students are active citizens in their communities.” —Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Deanne D’Emilio, JD
NEW PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2015

- Online RN to BSN.
- MBA with a Fraud and Forensics concentration.
- A bachelor’s degree in respiratory care—the only such program in the Pittsburgh region.
- Two online High Performance Learning master’s degrees: Master of Science in Leadership for High Performance Learning with optional principal certification and Master of Education in Teaching for High Performance Learning with optional secondary or middle level certification.

NEW INITIATIVES

- The University Commons, when dedicated on September 15, will be the center of campus life and learning and will be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building on campus.
- Carlow will launch a brand campaign titled “Revolutionary by Degrees,” the first major advertising campaign for the institution in the recent past.
- The Presidential Task Force on Update of the Carlow University Campus Master Plan has been charged with providing recommendations to the president and the board of trustees on creating a roadmap for the future construction, renewal, and maintenance of Carlow’s campus, following the University’s strategic plan.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

- A partnership with the Community College of Allegheny County will offer a seamless transition to a bachelor’s degree in more than 30 Carlow programs and includes co-enrollment in Carlow’s RN to BSN program.
- A partnership with the UPMC School of Nursing will allow students to co-enroll in Carlow’s RN to BSN program.

At the core of Transforming Lives. Transforming Our World: Strategic Plan 2014-2019 is the recognition that change is necessary to succeed in educating today’s learners. When our strategic plan is fully deployed, Carlow will be known for exceptional preparation of qualified graduates ready to pursue careers and contribute to the economic vitality of our region and beyond.

The following are recent examples of Carlow’s commitment to Transforming Lives. Transforming Our World.

Carlow’s full strategic plan can be viewed at www.carlow.edu/StrategicPlan.
A college student’s spring break typically consists of taking it easy and doing absolutely nothing. But for some, it’s a chance to change lives.

According to Gabriel Suarez, director of Mercy Service, “You can spend your vacation doing something that is bigger than yourself while still making personal connections.”

That’s just what Suarez—and Carlow students—did this past March 9-13 when they took part in the University’s 15th annual Alternative Spring Break.

The students traveled to Hamptonville, N.C., working for the first time with Well of Mercy; to Laredo, Texas, working with Habitat for Humanity; and to various locales throughout Pittsburgh, where they fulfilled different community needs.

Suarez and Sister Sheila Carney, RSM, special assistant to the president for Mercy Heritage, led six students to North Carolina to perform maintenance and upkeep tasks at the Well of Mercy, a Sisters of Mercy-sponsored, non-profit sanctuary based around reflection and silence.

“We did good, hard work, blazing new trails and clearing meditation points for guests at the Well of Mercy,” says Suarez.

Shannon Campolong, a nursing student from Baldwin, Pa., was one of the six students at the Well of Mercy.

“Sometimes, as college students, we take everything we have for granted,” says Campolong. “There are people who are struggling who need help with either simple tasks or large tasks, and it impacts their everyday lives.”

Margo Dolgos, an art education major from Gibsonia, Pa., feels opportunities like these are life-changing for everyone involved.

“Through this journey I didn’t only help others grow, but I grew myself into a better, stronger, and more independent young woman,” she says.

Suarez explains that Well of Mercy was chosen because it offers great value to students, who were also able to delve into the uses of meditation and reflection to clear the mind, while observing how a sense of community can heal a person.

For Dolgos, the combination of reflection, healing, and service made a lasting impact.

“I made friendships that are more sincere than I’ve felt in a long time,” she says, “but I also looked deeper into myself and realized that I am more than the sum of what people see of me.”

CARLOW UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES MILITARY FRIENDLY® STATUS

Carlow University has been named a “Military Friendly®” school by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business and the publisher of G.I. Jobs and the Guide to Military Friendly Schools.

Additionally, Carlow has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States Department of Defense to be a preferred provider for education, which will allow military students to have full reimbursement of their Carlow tuition.

“Ensuring that military dependents get an excellent education is a top priority at Carlow University. We recognize that education is a stabilizing influence in the lives of military families,” says Carlow President Suzanne Mellon, PhD. “Carlow University will help veterans and their dependents use their education benefits to their fullest extent and potential.”

Victory Media’s Military Friendly® Schools designation, a program in its sixth year, is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

Carlow is also a participant in the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program, which provides matching funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs to supplement the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

“We are here to help veterans navigate and succeed with academic resources and transition services in the spirit of service and dedication that is Carlow’s legacy,” says Mellon. “We’ll be here for military personnel and their families from their first contact with the University all the way until graduation.”
DEREK M. WESLEY APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT AT CARLOW

Derek M. Wesley, EdD, who has worked in fundraising leadership positions for nearly 15 years, has been named vice president for advancement at Carlow University effective May 4, 2015. He has been serving as vice president of institutional advancement at Alfred State College in Alfred, N.Y., since 2011.

“The position of vice president for advancement is critical to helping Carlow transform and reach a new and aspiring level of philanthropic giving, one that will put us on a sustainable path for success in the coming years,” says Carlow University President Suzanne Mellon, PhD. “Dr. Wesley is an accomplished advancement professional with comprehensive higher education and campaign experience. His successful career of alumni engagement, maximizing fundraising and outreach efforts, and developing a culture of giving will advance Carlow’s vision and priorities.”

Wesley comes to Carlow with a wealth of expertise in development strategy and execution. At Alfred State College, he was responsible for all major fundraising activities including major gifts, annual fund, alumni relations, and corporate relations. Additionally, he served as executive director for the college’s foundation to advance and promote the interests of the institution. During his tenure, he helped realize a 61 percent increase in annual voluntary support and worked with the foundation board to increase the endowment by over 23 percent.

From 2007-2011, he held the position of vice president for institutional advancement at Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D., where he oversaw an 84 percent increase in annual giving over a four-year period and increased President’s Society giving by $930,000 during the same timeframe. He also provided leadership for a comprehensive campaign effort for the institution and helped secure $1.8 million in support for the renovation of the college’s science center.

Earlier in his career Wesley served as assistant director, operations and research, in the Alumni/Development Office at Providence College in Rhode Island, and as assistant director, special gifts and Catholic education for the Diocese of Providence, providing him with a keen understanding of Carlow’s unique role in the Catholic and higher education communities.

Wesley received an EdD in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University, a Masters in educational administration as well as history from Providence College, and a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
Ashley Jones understands how difficult high school can be for adolescents. “They are simultaneously trying to find themselves and what they want to do in life,” says Jones, a Carlow senior double majoring in English secondary education and special education. “I want to be the educator they are not afraid to come to for help.”

That’s setting her sights high, but she knows how much she owes to teachers and mentors for all she has achieved during her college career. “My parents, having never applied to college or for financial aid, were not quite sure how to assist me,” she says. “If it weren’t for caring mentors and teachers within my high school, I am not quite sure how we would have managed.”

Her parents, Wayne and Kim, weren’t that far out of high school themselves when Ashley was born in 1993. They always encouraged her to do well in school, but—having never gone to college themselves—struggled with many aspects of higher education, like how to prepare for the SATs, which college to choose, and, most importantly, how to pay for it.

Jones received financial aid, worked a number of jobs while attending school, and still found time for student activities like the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (S-PSEA), Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, and Kappa Delta Epsilon, a national honor organization recognizing students preparing to enter the teaching profession.

The first-generation college student settled into campus life very nicely, and yet, after her sophomore year, financial stressors threatened to interrupt her education. “My parents began to take money out of their 401k to pay for my schooling,” says Jones. “If that’s not unconditional love, then I’m not quite sure what is.”

During the first semester of her junior year, Jones received incredible news. “Dr. Sigrid King [Carlow English professor] contacted me to inform me that I had been nominated for the prestigious Sister Rose Marie Hauber, RSM, Endowed Scholarship,” she recalls. The scholarship is awarded to junior full-time humanities students who have excelled academically, exemplify the Carlow mission, and are in need of financial assistance. “A few days later I was notified that I was the recipient. My parents and I cried tears of happiness.”

Jones knows she owes so much to the Carlow alumni who have gone before her. “I would like to find a phrase beyond ‘thank you’ to express my gratitude,” she told an audience at the annual Alumni Scholarship Luncheon, held on February 28 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. “You have done so much more than just further my education; you have allowed me to study abroad, to believe in the kindness of others, and to have an extremely personal experience of what being a member of the Carlow community is really about.”

And because of the Carlow community’s efforts, Ashley Jones will soon be inspiring others to love learning, just as Hauber once did.
ON THE AIR WITH CARLOW SPORTS TALK
New Monthly Webcast Features Celtics Student Athletes, Coaches, and Alumni

Volleyball players Kelsey Bonk and Carly Bonk sit with tennis player Amber Phillips and discuss their game plans for Monday night. Their strategy is to wait for the visitors to arrive—and then interview them.

The three girls are talented not only on their respective courts, but also in front of the camera. They host Carlow University’s new webcast, Carlow Sports Talk.

For Kelsey Bonk, a junior mass communications major from New Kensington, Pa., who wants to go into sports broadcasting, “this is the most ideal experience.”

With the help of George Sliman, Carlow’s athletic director; Michael Balmert, PhD, a communications professor; and Drew Wilson, director of media relations, Carly Bonk, Kelsey Bonk, and Phillips select four guests to interview for each show. Then, once a month, they head to MSA Sports Network’s studio in Green Tree to do the live hour-long webcast.

“Watching ESPN as a child and growing up, I constantly watched the sportscasters and sideline reporters sit down and interview athletes and coaches,” says Carly Bonk, also a mass communications major—and Kelsey Bonk’s twin sister. “It really interested me to try being on the side of the facilitator instead of being asked the questions as an athlete.”

So far, they’ve interviewed other student-athletes, coaches, professors, and alumni.

“Not knowing what your guest is going to say when you ask them questions keeps you on your toes!” according to Phillips, a senior from Harrison City, Pa. “My favorite part is the feeling you get after completing your interview. Even if mistakes were made, I feel successful after signing off.”

Kelsey Bonk, Carly Bonk, and Phillips work closely with Balmert, Sliman, and Wilson to figure out what questions to ask. It is a skill that requires practice, as the girls have quickly realized.

“The biggest challenge is not having any prior experience or education on the techniques and skills of formal interviewing,” Carly Bonk explains. “Being able to change and adjust as we move through this process will only enhance our experience.”

Phillips, a corporate communications major, plans to use this experience to further her career after college.

“I am definitely learning how to refine my public speaking skills,” she says. “I’m learning how to plan interviews like this and also working on my listening skills.”

“This is the most hands-on experience we can get,” adds Kelsey Bonk. “You learn to adjust to the speaker and set the tone for the interview. That’s something that you can’t really get unless you’re actually doing it.”

Balmert agrees. “There’s real value in the classroom, but sometimes stepping out into the unknown is an experience rich with opportunity,” he says. “They’re exposed to the dynamic nature of communication, and they become aware of their adaptability as communicators.”

Balmert, Sliman, and Wilson specifically asked Carly Bonk, Kelsey Bonk, and Phillips to host the show partially because of their majors, but also because the girls had the right attitudes.

“What I noticed most is that they have a passion not only for their individual sport, but for sports in general and Carlow Athletics,” says Sliman. “I knew they had the personalities to easily interact with others and represent the University well.”
The Milestone Year Continues in Carlow Athletics

Building on the success of the fall sports season, Carlow University athletics continued to reach new and significant milestones for student-athletes and coaches.

SENIOR GUARD ERIN DISANTI scored her 1,000th point for her Carlow basketball career during a 70-49 victory over Penn State Fayette on February 5 at Oakland Catholic’s Donahue Pavilion. The historic point came on a free throw for the Tarentum, Pa., native, who is majoring in human resources management at Carlow.

SEASONAL HEAD COACH BOB SIRKO earned the 150th career victory of his Carlow coaching career in a win against Midway College (Ky.) in March. The milestone win was part of a very successful weekend for the Celtics, as they swept all four games played against Midway.

SENIOR PITCHER EMILY PRITTS earned USCAA honors as “Pitcher of the Week” for the week ending March 23, 2015. Pritts, an early childhood/special education major at Carlow, earned two victories during the week and batted .667 with eight runs batted in.

THE MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM had a tough first year record wise, as they finished 2-22 on the season, but the young players began to develop as the season moved forward. Head Coach Tim Keefer believes the team will get better as returning players develop and with the addition of new recruits.

GIMME A C!

The Carlow University Cheerleaders made their campus debut just a few months ago, but they’re already making serious plans for their future.

The small-but-mighty group of six women—all members of the class of 2017—hit the practice room hard in January of 2015 after a whirlwind fall semester that included pitching the group to Carlow’s student government, securing funding and approval, holding tryouts, and setting the roster. Those chosen few—eight, at first, shrinking to six following injury and attrition—started practicing the first day they returned to campus in January.

“It’s been crazy,” says team founder Lizzie Shumaker, “but we’re truly learning something new every day.” By the end of the season, the girls had amassed a repertoire of more than 40 sideline chants and a handful of dance routines that showcased a fun, hip-hop style with bouncy cheerleading touches and tumbling passes.

The team gets creative direction from coach Melanie Gaebel, Carlow’s assistant director of admissions. “There’s been a lot of hard work this semester,” Gaebel says, “but one of the best things I’ve heard was from Athletic Director George Sliman. He said, ‘I don’t know what my expectations were, but you surpassed them.’”

The team debuted at Carlow’s annual Pink the Pavilion event on February 3 and cheered throughout the remainder of both the men’s and women’s basketball seasons.

As for the future, the hopes are to grow both in size and in expertise. “Prospective students are already asking about it,” says Shumaker. “We’re looking to at least double our numbers for the upcoming school year, and to eventually become a competitive squad. I’m excited for us to grow.”
CARLOW UNIVERSITY Laureates receive the University’s most prestigious alumni award which honors their outstanding academic achievements, professional contributions, and leadership in service.

“Recipients of this award are lasting tributes to their own professional excellence, the transformational education they received at Carlow, and the dynamic environment which helped to fuel their ambitions and their desire to make a difference in the best ways they can,” says Carlow University President Suzanne Mellon, PhD.

The 2015 Laureates were honored at a special luncheon May 8 at Rodef Shalom Temple and participated in Carlow’s Spring Commencement at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum on May 9, 2015.
**MOTOWN: THE MUSICAL AND LUNCH, PITTSBURGH**

L-R: Carol Neyland ’73 and Lindsay Neyland.

L-R: Eliza Ganster, Patrick Cooksey, Martin Reidell, and Mary Fran Cooksey Reidell ’02, ’12.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM TOUR AND LUNCH, PHOENIX**

L-R: Thelma Lovette Morris ’70, Gregory Morris, PhD, Loretta Delbouve Fox ’63, Bob Fox.

L-R: Georgia Lundberg Navaretta ’83, Gerald Navaretta, and Victoria Dym ’10.

**RINGLING MUSEUM TOUR AND LUNCH, SARASOTA**

L-R: Marianna Grippi Martelli ’67, Marsha Taylor Braunlich ’68, Pam Coleman ’68, Giovanna Troiani Dinello ’48, ’54, Mary Pat Tyrrell Mulligan ’57, Laura Sigmund Kindlin ’55, and Victoria Dym ’10.

**OCALA, FLORIDA VISIT**

Marion Goodrum Montanari ’62 and Suzanne Mellon, PhD.
ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

The Alumni Scholarship Benefit, held at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, is a tradition for the entire Carlow community. Featured here are pairs of mothers and daughters gathered at the event, which benefited the Celtic Endowed Scholarship of the Alumni Association and the Sister Rose Marie Hauber, RSM, Endowed Scholarship.

L-R: Emily Dora ’08 and Judith E. Dora.

L-R: Lea Steadman ’12, ’14 and Luann Layman.

L-R: Adrienne Kolek and Emily Kolek ’11.

L-R: Ashley Kunkle ’11 and Bobbi Fink.

L-R: Merrie Kaltz, Jane McIntyre Kwasniewski ’79, and Megan Grabowski Kwasniewski ’13.


L-R: Monica DeCario and Natalie DeCario ’12.
LEGACY DINNER

L-R: Louise Reiber Malakoff, JD ’67, Elizabeth Erwin Brown ’08, Emily Bechtel ’07, and Eleanor Keener Midgley ’43.

L-R: Robert Lee, MD, Kathleen McClain Lee ’55, and Megan Hecker.

Suzanne Mellon, PhD joins student scholarship recipients at the Legacy Dinner.

Ashley Jones, Sister Rose Marie Hauber, RSM, Endowed Scholarship recipient.

L-R: Susan Fredley and Dale Fredley.

L-R: Devin Hundley, Barbara Kraft ’83, and Deborah Catlett Gearhart.
**NEWS**

**30s**

Margaret McGinley Conley ’36 recently celebrated her 100th birthday with her daughter, Judy Conley Stafford ’68, and niece, Alana McGovern Adams ’73.

**60s**

Jeanne Daugherty Lese ’61 and her sister Patricia Daugherty Thomas ’64 both celebrated their 50th anniversary with their husbands, respectively, Henri K. Lese, PhD, and Alvin Thomas.

**50s**

Gloria Gallagher Berry ’53 and her husband George J. Berry, MD, were featured in the March 2015 issue of Sewickley Living for their impact in the Sewickley community. Gloria was recently awarded the St. James School Excellent Mind award for her many contributions to the parish.

**50s**

Loretta Delbauve Fox ’63 moved to Carefree, Ariz., a year ago with her husband.

**50s**

Mary Ann Sestili, PhD ’61 received the Legacy of Leadership Award at the Interfaith Works 18th annual Companies Caring Breakfast at Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, March 24, 2015.

**50s**

Nancy Minadeo Flanigan ’64 is proud to announce her son Mark’s service in the U.S. Department of State and Department of Health and Human Services. He was recently awarded a Rotary International Peace Fellowship and completed his Master of Arts in International Peace at International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.
Andrea Mastro PhD ’66 was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The accomplishments of the new fellows this year fall under the theme “Innovations, Information, and Imaging.” At the annual meeting, Mastro was presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue rosette pin.

Margaret Mangan, JD ’70, currently an administrative law judge with the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings, moderated a panel on implicit bias and access to justice at the National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference in San Diego in October of 2014.


Janice Sudak ’80 was recognized as a clinical cardiovascular perfusionist (CCP) emeritus by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, a title awarded to retired CCPs with 20 or more years of experience. Currently, 242 perfusionists have been awarded this title. Sudak also developed a technique to dialyze patients with renal dysfunction while on the heart-lung machine, making previously inoperable patients candidates for open heart surgery.

Rebecca Kronk ’81 received the Cameos of Caring Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing for her professionalism and community service.

Cathy Montgomery Hillman ’83 passed the PRAXIS Reading Specialist exam in August 2014 and received her Master of Science in Education, Reading, and Language Arts from Duquesne University in December 2014.

Linda Fey Madden-Brenholts ’88 was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award from Serra Catholic High School, formerly St. Peter’s High School. Linda is a 1967 graduate of St. Peter’s and received the award on February 28, 2015, at the Westin Convention Center.

Denise Overfield, PhD ’88 was named interim associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of West Georgia in January, 2015.

Kerry Paustenbach ’93 accepted a position at Kramer Law.

Sherry Hoback ’96 was promoted to chief clinical services officer for Tampa Family Health Centers and received her MBA with a concentration in healthcare management in October 2014.

Christine Keffer Reinhard ’97 accepted a position with Select Sales, a woman-owned company in Allentown, Pa.

Deeawn Hendricks Roundtree, DBA ’92, ’00 accepted a position as academic program director and assistant professor with the business department of South University’s West Palm Beach Campus, effective April 6, 2015.

Valerie Vicari ’00 accepted an executive director position at Stairways Behavioral Health. Vicari previously served in progressive leadership roles for 15 years with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), including her most recent position as director of the Division of Western Operations, with oversight of mental health programs in 46 counties across Western and Central Pennsylvania.

Rachel Reuscher Haugdahl ’07 earned her MBA/Finance in 2011 and is currently employed by Verizon as the finance operations manager of employee commissions payments.

Lori Jensen Krause ’07 received her National Certified Counselor (NCC) designation after successfully passing the National Counselor Exam (NCE) in December 2013.

Victoria Dym ’10 published her first poetry chapbook, Class Clown, with Finishing Line Press. Ellen McGrath Smith, author of Scatter, Feed and The Dog Makes His Rounds and Other Poems, says, “This collection is a trick house with windows that allow you to look inside the actual vocation of clowning, and while you’re doing that, somehow a mirror rises up so that your inside look is turned back on you ... you unpack Class Clown’s populous WW, you’ll find in there a speaker holding loneliness in one hand and hope in the other.” To order a copy, please email Victoria Dym at vcidym@hotmail.com.

Stevie Watson ’11 was nominated for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s (LLS) Woman of the Year award for raising more than $40,000 for the LLS in just three years. Her candidacy includes a 10-week fundraising campaign which began on February 2, 2015.

Lauren Younger Grant ’12 started her own child care business that has been in operation for less than a year. Grant will teach full time in the fall with Teach for America in Washington, D.C.

Deborah McAllister ’14 and Shala Johnson ’14, mother and daughter, both graduated on Friday, December 12, 2014.

Rachel Reuscher Haugdahl ’07 and her husband, Keith, welcomed their son, Lukas Haugdahl, on October 17, 2013.

Lori Jensen Krause ’07 married Jason Krause on November 15, 2014.

Sarah Rac Long ’09 married Nicholas J. Long on October 25, 2014.


Dr. John R. Quinn, husband of Evelyn Tabacek Quinn ’62, died October 21, 2014.

Felix Raschiatore, brother of Frieda Raschiatore Flamino ’66, died November 19, 2014.
Mary Coates, mother of Sheryl Coates ’67, died February 9, 2015.

Patrick R. Naughton, son of Carole Andolina Naughton ’69, died March 6, 2015.

Matthew J. “Red” Troha Jr., father of Margaret A. Troha ’69, died February 13, 2015.

70s

Richard A. Talarico, husband of Deborah Grimes Talarico ’73, died March 11, 2015.

00s

Steven R. Kirk, husband of Kim A. Huber Kirk ’03, died May 1, 2014.

10s

Rosemary S. Albert, mother of Marycelia Albert Radakovich ’10, died July 2, 2014.

Tynan Moore, husband of Linda Moore ’14, died December 9, 2014.

IN MEMORIAM

30s


40s

Rosemary Kennelly Kelly ’40 died September 5, 2014.

Rose Mary Settino ’42 died June 6, 2014.

Leanore Marie Steiner Cornyn ’43 died February 23, 2015.

Eleanor Keener Midgley ’43 died February 21, 2015.

Madelyn Tommasetti Thalken ’45 died October 29, 2014.

50s

Samuel DeSimone ’50 died December 25, 2014.

Regis C. Ferguson ’50 died April 26, 2013.


Barbara Plutnicki ’51 died November 13, 2014.

Audrey Thomas Kalomeres ’52 died September 13, 2014.


Sarah Jane “Sally” Fury Chrow ’57 died May 18, 2014.

Sister Margaret Aitmeyer, RSM ’59 died November 30, 2014.

Sister Mary Irene Grabowicz, CSSF ’59 died October 27, 2014.

60s

Sister Jane Pavlovic, SSCM ’60 died May 23, 2014.

Sister Conleth Brannan, RSM ’61 died November 9, 2014.

Sister Marie Flaherty, RSM ’61 died February 7, 2015.


Mary Donatelli Siciliano ’62 died February 16, 2015.

Sister Mary L. Kuzma, OSF ’63 died October 13, 2014.

Sister Corrine Myers, RSM ’63 died January 15, 2015.

Dora Falsetti Zilla ’63 died May 23, 2014.

Sister Arlene Cassidy, CSJ ’66 died October 15, 2014.

Sister Anita Marie Zubay, CSJ ’68 died February 8, 2015.

Sister Eileen Chlebowski, SHS ’69 died March 8, 2015.

Dorothy Ann Roman ’69 died April 27, 2014.

70s

Sister Mary Claire Hudert, OSB ’70 died January 26, 2015.

Kathleen Vater Mortenson ’72 died December 3, 2014.

Michele Fletcher Spence ’72 died March 27, 2015.

Gloria J. Baughman ’76 died September 22, 2014.

80s

Anthony Edward Woods ’84 died November 30, 2014.

90s

Drena Elaine Williams ’91 died March 15, 2013.

Kitty Lou Battaglia ’93 died December 11, 2014.

Laura Lee Wisniewski ’94 died August 12, 2014.

Christopher M. Campana ’97 died April 4, 2014.

Francine E. Rose-Strane ’99 died February 8, 2014.

00s

Stephanie Marie Levato ’06 died November 17, 2014.

Friends

Dorothy Page died November 10, 2014.

Have you recently moved, married, had a baby, changed jobs, earned an advanced degree, or received a promotion? If so, please send us your news, updated information, or business card, and we will send you a Carlow University luggage tag as our way of saying thanks.

Please send alumni news to Rose Woolley

EMAIL: rmwoolley@carlow.edu

MAIL: Carlow University
3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

CALL: 412.578.6274

VISIT: www.carlow.edu/ShareYourNews
on thursday, March 18, 1965—hours
after returning from the student protests
in Montgomery, Ala.—Kathy Gibson ’65
penned a letter to her family detailing the
“most terrifying experience of my life,”
as a lasting reminder of the tremendous
impact the events had on all those who
lived through the civil rights era.
#CarlowProud painting photo by Brandywyne Dugan, second-year art major with a concentration in photography, and 13 other fellow Carlow students!