

**CARLOW**  
UNIVERSITY

**MAGAZINE**  
SPRING 2021



A TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE K. MELLON, PHD | COMMENCEMENT 2021







# Letter *from the* PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I prepare to end my tenure in the presidency, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to our trustees, alumni, donors, faculty and staff for your support in making these past eight years a time of growth and development for Carlow University. Together, we have advanced the important mission of the University and affirmed its critical role among the region's higher education institutions.



This past year as we navigated the pandemic, striving to keep our students on track to graduation or completion of their courses, the entire community came together to serve the Common Good. Our Catholic Mercy values played a critical role. We succeeded in keeping the incidence of COVID-19 on campus remarkably low, shifted our teaching and operations to remote formats, and graduated over 870 students. I am enormously proud of the resiliency, dedication and tenacity demonstrated by our community, most especially our students.

Upon reflection, I am very proud of the advances we've made in our academic offerings, expanding in areas where we excel and have the biggest impact on students while serving the needs of the workforce, and the innovations that have been essential to this progress. When the pandemic struck, our investments in innovation and diversifying curriculum delivery modalities paid off. Carlow remains committed to providing state-of-the-art education and training to prepare our students for 21st-century jobs.

In these final months of my presidency, I have been spending time with Carlow's 11th president-elect, Dr. Kathy Humphrey, as she prepares to take the reins in July. Dr. Humphrey is an experienced leader committed to Carlow's mission and the students we serve. I am full of optimism about Carlow's future under her leadership, and ask you to welcome and support her as you did me.

Pittsburgh has become a home to me, and, though I will return to my first home in Michigan, I look forward to visiting often. Thank you for welcoming me, supporting Carlow, and helping to advance this wonderful University and the students we serve.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne K. Mellon". The script is elegant and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD

# CARLOW

UNIVERSITY

## MAGAZINE

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## SPRING 2021

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# MENTOR *Connect* NETWORK GIVE BACK



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networking platform for  
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**Register and expand your network at  
[connect.carlow.edu](https://connect.carlow.edu)**

# THE CARLOW COMMITMENT:

Unleashing **imagination** to drive us **forward**

The need to be distinctive has never been more important than in today's increasingly competitive higher education and post-pandemic environment, and Carlow's strategic plan, The Carlow Commitment, is our roadmap for advancing our mission in this changing market.

## CONTINUING TO LEAD WITH OUR STRENGTHS

Carlow University has an outstanding reputation in the health, natural and social sciences and is well positioned for continued growth in serving adult and graduate students. We are expanding our program offerings to educate highly skilled professionals for jobs that are in high demand in the workforce. Our goal is to be the regional leader in educating health and social science practitioners and professionals.

In early April, Carlow University announced that Maryland-based Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate will develop our Fifth Avenue property through a public-private partnership.

The University plans to build an Interdisciplinary Health & Science Center to support a growing portfolio of health sciences programs. The balance of the property will be a commercial development office and research space that Edgemoor will lease to businesses or institutions that wish to establish or grow a presence in the Pittsburgh Innovation District.

The project is slated to be completed in summer 2025.

The new Interdisciplinary Health & Science Center will house state-of-the-art learning and laboratory space, elevate Carlow's profile in Oakland's innovation corridor, and assure Carlow students receive the high-quality, cutting-edge educational experiences they need to prepare for the 21st-century workplace.

The center will also house the University's four new graduate health science programs:

- **MS in Speech-Language Pathology**  
(launch fall 2021)
- **MS in Physician Assistant**  
(launch fall 2022)
- **MS and OTD in Occupational Therapy**  
(launch fall 2022)
- **DPT in Physical Therapy**  
(launch fall 2023)

"We are delighted to partner with Edgemoor on this exciting project for Carlow University," said President Suzanne K. Mellon. "Edgemoor has a proven track record in the higher education and innovation space and is experienced in P3 partnerships, with a strong reputation for community engagement and inclusion, priorities for the University. We are excited about their leadership for this project and our long-term partnership with them."

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF ANTIRACISM

Deeply embedded in the culture at Carlow University is a long-held fidelity to the social justice concerns that were central to the mission of the Sisters of Mercy. In response to an alarming increase in racial tensions, social unrest and hate crimes, Carlow is putting a stake in

**ACCELERATE  
GROWTH**

**OPTIMIZE  
LEARNING**

**CREATE  
COLLABORATIVE  
LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS**

**BUILD  
FINANCIAL  
HEALTH**





Conceptual rendering of the Interdisciplinary Health & Science Center building.  
(Note: This is not an architectural plan but a concept drawing)

the ground with its commitment to social justice, equity and inclusion through a new endeavor to collaboratively build a culture of antiracism and serve as a leader in this space in our region.

In 2020, President Mellon charged a new Special Board of Trustees and Presidential Strategic Planning Antiracism Task Force to create a long-term strategy for building an antiracist culture. The task force will expand existing work at the University, including that of the Social Justice Institutes and the Office of Equity and Inclusion and curriculum designed to create an educational experience that exposes students to the systemic nature of racism in our world, politics, economics and social history.

## **SEEKING AND SCALING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships are critical to Carlow's future, and we continue to leverage collaborative opportunities that build enrollment pipelines, elevate our brand and reputation, expand our reach within and beyond the region, and enable student success.

Through our new seven-year OPM (online program management) partnership, we've significantly scaled our programming to increase new student enrollment. In fall 2020, program directors began working expeditiously with our OPM partner to launch eight new online programs in spring of 2021, with 15 slated to be live by fall.

Partnerships also are working to support and retain first-year and transfer students. Through grant monies secured through the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Carlow is partnering with the Pittsburgh Promise to provide students with services and experiences that work to retain them and position them for graduation success.

Carlow will continue to innovate by leveraging partnerships that create transformational learning experiences for our students, always being informed by the next great need of the region and beyond. ■









# REFLECTING ON THE PRESIDENCY

*After nearly a decade of leadership, Dr. Suzanne Mellon is preparing to retire and return to her home city of Detroit. We sat down with Carlow's 10th president to talk about her tenure, her legacy and what the future holds.*

## **What initially drew you to Carlow?**

It wasn't just one thing. At the time, I had already been in Catholic higher education for some time, and I was drawn to a private institution. In fact, I already had some experience with the Sisters of Mercy while at the University of Detroit Mercy. Carlow's commitment to the liberal arts and its reputation in the health sciences and social justice were also important.

That Carlow sat in an urban area was important to me, and Pittsburgh was well known for its strong "eds and meds" economy, and as a city that worked well with the private sector.

## **Has your view changed since then?**

Not in the least. I've heard others say that Pittsburgh is a big little city, and I find that holds true. You can't really grasp that until you live here. It's always been a place that's willing to take risks and do things in new ways. Pittsburgh is flexible and innovative. People here are genuinely willing to work together to advance the region. This city does collaboration well.

## **Working closely with the community has been a staple of your leadership. What other achievements come to mind as points of pride?**

When I think "achievements," I always keep in mind that rarely do people achieve anything by themselves. When you can hang your hat on something, it's usually because of a collective effort. In our case, achievements belong to Carlow as a whole.

## **In that case, which team efforts shine brightest?**

The growth in academic excellence and community engagement come to mind. Carlow's talented staff, faculty and alumni have all played leading roles in attending to the needs of our students while also being responsive to the community. The Sisters of Mercy have always taken this to heart, asking, "What does the community need right now?" And our Carlow community responds. A great example is the mobilization of our community for the common good during the pandemic. Our University worked hard to ensure that students stayed on track. In fact, we celebrated 871 new graduates during this time.

# A POEM FOR DR. SUZANNE K. MELLON'S INAUGURATION AS THE 10TH PRESIDENT OF CARLOW UNIVERSITY

## An excerpt from "Sea Change"

Up on this hill, you see pods of students  
walk past the statue of Frances Warde,  
dressing her in cap or scarf for weather.  
Truck deliveries to food service,

campus police waving from their  
orange carts; teachers talking on the  
sidewalks next to yellow tulips planted by facilities;  
the woman cleaning the halls of Aquinas.

The world-weary details falling  
like paint chipping from the towbridge—  
and we can't wait to see  
what the rising waters will do.

The poet Michael Klein said:  
*The world interrupts our dreams  
with proof.*

If you stand on the landing of Grace Library,  
you can dream the old cities:

the stacked houses on the far hill,  
the Monongahela winding past  
where the South Side Works used to be:  
the immigrants who built this country

and their descendants still sweeping the sidewalks.  
Imagine it:  
Eastern Europeans, the Slovaks, Ukrainians,  
and their life of brutal work,

the transformation of the mills in our blood.  
How did we get here?

Imagine the Sisters of Mercy  
in Carlow, Ireland, what made them take such risk?  
The courage of the new idea and the unexplored,  
the intellectual rebels that they are:

They got on a boat in Ireland  
and started Mt. Mercy Academy, 1929.  
Those who came before us,  
in all our transformations—

This is our proof.

Remember the names:  
Dr. Suzanne K. Mellon—  
the same elemental courage.

By Jan Beatty, April 5, 2014  
Director of Creative Writing; Director, Madwomen in  
the Attic; Distinguished Writer in Residence, MFA

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## Tell us more about your academic approach.

Academics is the heart of the University. I've remained focused on assuring we have a strong liberal arts foundation embedded in all of our curriculum. It's important to ensure that our graduates have the essential competencies and critical thinking skills needed for success. We are also very focused on building high-quality programs that align with the needs of the workforce, while also grounded in our mission. Values-based education produces terrific leaders.

## We've made strategic investments that have allowed for significant program growth at Carlow.

Apropos to that are our four new graduate health science programs. These new programs build upon our strengths and position us to offer a growing portfolio of options to students. We must always be looking at where we want to be five, 10 years from now.

## Forward thinking has also allowed you to swiftly address social justice issues.

That's right. We built up the Social Justice Institutes, established the Atkins Center for Ethics, which provides students with an important framework, and established the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Equity work is something we take seriously. It's vital that we continue to push and really advocate for underrepresented populations. We recently elevated this to the board level by creating a Special Board of Trustees and Presidential Strategic Planning Antiracism Task Force strategic plan to develop a long-term strategy for Carlow to lead on these issues.

## Part of your legacy will include capital improvements on campus. How has this impacted the University?

I'm especially gratified by the results of our enhancements to the campus. I underestimated the "power of place." The University Commons, for example, was our former library. In its transformation, the building was essentially gutted and has



become the center of campus life. Similarly, the renovation of St. Joe's Hall is just beautiful and has added a contemporary athletic and fitness center for students. It is used by all our students, from the children at the campus school to our many athletic teams.

I would also be remiss if I left out our state-of-the-art Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning, which offers valuable simulation labs for our nursing students. Providing this sort of realistic training gives Carlow students a competitive edge. Once they enter the workforce, they'll already be familiar with scenarios they may encounter in a hospital environment.

**You've also placed significant emphasis on growing Carlow University athletics.**

I have, and it was the impetus for the new fitness center. We now have 14 men's and women's sports teams but do not have fields of our own. We're a small campus, which is part of the trade-off. I believe athletics creates a pathway for undergraduate students who want to continue experiencing the connection of sports during college, including those who are not on teams but want to take fitness classes or work out. It fosters a tangible sense of camaraderie and connectedness, and athletes tend to be very good students.

**Moving forward, what do you feel is most vital for Carlow?**

As we emerge out of the pandemic, we're in a time when universities will need to continue responding to an accelerating pace of change and be willing to transform themselves to use new technologies and address changing student needs. It's essential to be nimble when pursuing our goals and engaged in the community to understand

the workforce and the community. I've always enjoyed this part of leadership—the push forward to advance Carlow's mission.

A favorite quote of mine is by Cardinal John Henry Newman—"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

**What will you miss most about Carlow?**

Being with students, alumni, faculty and staff in person. Our community. While this time has been transformative in a lot of ways, I think we've all experienced the loss to campus life this past year. Before the pandemic, I would regularly head to the cafeteria and have lunch with students. It was great to hear what was on their minds, and I've really missed this.

**What are your plans for retirement?**

As those who know me well have noted, I have a lot of energy and need to be engaged and productive. I will continue serving on several boards, be active in higher education and do some executive coaching. Like everyone else I have some catching up to do with my family coming out of the pandemic, and I'm really looking forward to spending time with my children and grandchildren. I'll be returning to my hometown in Michigan where I have friends and family and many interests I've put on the backburner. I'm looking forward to it. Friends have suggested I avoid rushing into too many commitments. I think I'll take that to heart. ■





## TIMELINE HIGH NOTES: PRESIDENT SUZANNE K. MELLON —2013-2021—

- Named **10th president** of Carlow University

**2013**

- Inaugurated as Carlow University's 10th president

**2014**

- Established "**Transforming Lives. Transforming Our World.**" the University's five-year strategic plan

- Instituted the **Carlow Compass**
- Oversaw the ribbon-cutting of **University Commons**

**2015**

- **Raised \$33 million** for the University's first comprehensive campaign
- Oversaw the restructuring of Academic Affairs into **three colleges**

- Established the **President's Advisory Council**
- Recognized by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* as **CEO of the Year**
- Established the **President's Council on Equity, Inclusion and Community**

**2016**

- Expanded the **Social Justice Institutes**
- Received **successful affirmation of accreditation** by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education



- Created the **Atkins Center for Ethics**

**2017**

- Established the **Saint Vincent College partnership** for nursing

- Opened the **Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning**

**2018**

- Recognized by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* as one of the **Women of Influence**
- Opened the St. Joseph Athletic & Fitness Center

**2019**

- Launched "**The Carlow Commitment: Unleashing Imagination,**" a five-year strategic plan

- **Retention rates, student success and social mobility** hit historic levels

**2020**

- Created the Special Board of Trustees and Presidential Strategic Planning **Antiracism Task Force**
- Announced the University's **first OPM (online program management) partnership**

- Launched the expansion of the College of Health and Wellness with **four new graduate health science programs**
- Restructured the University's three colleges into the **College of Arts and Sciences** and the **College of Health and Wellness**

**2021**

- Announced a partnership with Edgemoor for **development of Carlow's Fifth Avenue property**
- Endowment growth reaches **100%** during Dr. Mellon's presidency

- Named **President Emerita** by Carlow Board of Trustees



# COMMENTARY FROM THE COMMUNITY

"Dr. Mellon has been the epitome of a servant leader. She came to the University and immediately analyzed what we needed, and then promptly developed a strategic vision to propel us to the next level of achievement. She worked very hard to become integrated into the City of Pittsburgh and the Southwestern Pennsylvania region and to become an influential voice. Through her skilled and impactful leadership, she elevated the University's profile in areas in which we excel academically, and she advocated our Mercy mission beyond our traditional reach. She always leads by example and is dedicated in her commitment to our students and their academic and workforce successes.

In the past eight years, she has accomplished the completion of two strategic plans for the University and a successful Middle States Decennial Review; overseen the expansion of new specialty accreditations and graduate programs; built student outcomes that have shown strong growth in retention, student success and career outcomes; completed the first comprehensive campaign for the University that exceeded goal; championed signature capital projects that have transformed the University through the University Commons, the St. Joseph Fitness Center, state-of-the-art clinical simulation centers, and the lower campus development and P3 Project; stewarded an endowment that has grown by more than 80%; and created signature institutes and centers that exemplify the University's mission in the Social Justice Institutes and the Atkins Center for Ethics.

Dr. Mellon is consistently thoughtful and committed to our academic and social justice missions—and at the same time, always empathetic to the students' needs while keeping her focus on the larger



community and the University's economic responsibilities to all its stakeholders. Forever the teacher, she lives her calling with supreme sincerity and the highest of ethics—even in the toughest of times.

Dr. Mellon has been an extraordinary, innovative leader. While we are very sorry to see her retire, we are proud of the transformative legacy she has left for our students to emulate and enjoy. I will miss my friend but am comforted to know that she will be sharing the same strength of character and warm heart she has shown our students with her 11 grandchildren!"

— Dorothy A. Davis, JD '78, Chair, Board of Trustees

"Dr. Mellon is leaving an indelible mark on the University, having impacted every area of the institution, from the physical campus, to the academic colleges, to athletics, the endowment, and our community. The focus of her agenda has always been our students and assuring them of a high-quality education and 21st-century skills infused with Carlow's Catholic Mercy values. She is a woman of deep faith and integrity, and she not only sets an example through her leadership, she raises the bar for all of us. We have been guided by her conviction that our values and our community are our most critical asset. They enable us to prepare Carlow students to navigate the complexities of the modern world and to contribute to making it a better place. I know she has made all of us better."

— Shawn Nelson, Chief of Staff

"I have appreciated how much Dr. Mellon values the input of the students here on campus, whether they are undergraduate, graduate, adult or transfer students. She wants to make sure our voices are heard, and I was excited that she asked me to be on the Strategic Plan Innovation and Renewal Committee. Typically, universities don't ask students to take part in this type of committee, but she felt it was important to have student input. Thanks to Dr. Mellon advocating for student involvement, I had the opportunity to be exposed to new learning opportunities, and I gained experience that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise."

— Yousef Tamimi, Senior Biology Major





"Dr. Mellon's greatest challenge was to guide the University through the effects of the pandemic. Through her leadership, Carlow was able to make the necessary adjustments in the delivery of its programs at the highest level. Her response to the pandemic was immediate, courageous and efficient. From the very beginning, she has demonstrated a commitment to the overall good of the University, making and creating difficult changes while not losing sight of Carlow's mission as the stabilizing factor."

— **Jack Alverson, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Theology**

"When I first started my career at Carlow, I was asked to be on the Strategic Planning Committee as a faculty representative. To be honest, I don't think of myself as a businessperson—I am a nurse. I wasn't sure how helpful I would be on the committee, but Dr. Mellon recognized the importance of having me be involved and treated me like I was an integral part in the planning and decision making. She helped foster my growth as a professional, and that experience boosted my confidence in my work, and for that I am forever grateful for her."

— **Carla Tomas, FNP-C, RN, Faculty, Nursing**

"Dr. Mellon has provided a number of key community partners, like Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, with the opportunity to access and gain insight from her experiences at the University. We partnered with Carlow on an eye-opening community video highlighting the vital work we do at Habitat Pittsburgh for families in need. Dr. Mellon has been a great friend and mentor, and we're going to miss her presence here in Pittsburgh. She's been a gem for the community and for that we're thankful and appreciative."

— **Howard Slaughter Jr., DSc. '93, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, President's Advisory Council**

"Dr. Suzanne Mellon is a true woman of spirit, inspiring many to embrace her vision. A leading advocate of the Catholic Mercy educational experience at Carlow, Dr. Mellon's tenure has attracted and developed students of strong character, high competency and immeasurable heart. Her leadership these past eight years has advanced the Sisters of Mercy legacy, granting access to a countless number of students who might otherwise not have had the opportunity, sending forth thousands of graduates intent on serving those in need—thereby creating a more just and merciful world."

— **Timothy Phillips, PhD, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students**



"I have always recognized Dr. Mellon as an academic leader. I feel that over her tenure, she really built on the vision and direction of her predecessors and on the 'audacity' and courage of the Sisters of Mercy. What she's done with the support of her faculty and staff has really positioned Carlow for success in Pittsburgh."

— **Mary Ann Sestili, PhD '61, Board Trustee Emerita**

"As a current donor and former trustee of Carlow, it has been an honor to work with Dr. Mellon during her tenure. Her leadership led the University forward in IT, social justice, campus renovations and building Carlow's endowment. She fostered Carlow's Catholic heritage in her commitment to the Mercy-based mission. Dr. Mellon pushed students to be adaptable to our changing world, to be lifelong learners and to be well prepared for exciting careers. One of her special gifts was enhancing Carlow's reputation and visibility through her leadership roles in the Pittsburgh/Oakland academic community. My life was blessed by her friendship."

— **Barbara Capozzi Kirr '60**



COMMENCEMENT 2021







# HYBRID COMMENCEMENT:

## A CARLOW FIRST



Commencement is a special time marked by the meeting of two significant life chapters: the conclusion of academic studies and the professional or educational chapter that follows.

Despite the limitations presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Carlow University honored its graduates and their milestone accomplishments through an array of pomp and circumstance. Given the pandemic and safety concerns, Carlow hosted its first two virtual commencements on Nov. 7, 2020, and May 8, 2021.

Additionally, on May 15 the University held an in-person Celebration of Graduation Ceremony, inviting fall 2020 and

spring 2021 graduates to participate. The event, which took place on The Green and adhered to COVID-19 prevention guidelines, recognized student accomplishments by academic area, with staggered celebrations by department throughout the sunny Saturday afternoon.

Carlow University was proud to offer our newest alumni the opportunity to mark the occasion in a safe, comfortable way. Congratulations graduates!

Visit [carlow.edu/commencement](https://carlow.edu/commencement) for more photos.



## ALUM'S TIMELY BOOK SPEAKS TO COURAGE AND SOLIDARITY

Pittsburgh-set 'Down on James Street' aims to engage young readers

By Colleen Pollock

An alum's newly published children's picture book with social justice undertones is rooted in lessons learned at Carlow University.

"Down on James Street," a work of fiction by 2008 alumna Nicole McCandless, was inspired by a 1930s event on Pittsburgh's North Side that McCandless learned about in a Carlow history class. The incident reportedly involved the closing of a popular James Street jazz bar because of interracial dancing.

"That story just kind of stuck with me," McCandless said. "When I started to write seriously, this was the first story that I wanted to do. The question was, 'How do I turn an event that I really don't know anything about into creating a story for children?'"

The book, illustrated by Byron Grandby, features characters Dorothy, a Black woman, and George, a white man who must decide between white privilege and helping his friend reopen the dance.

"A big part of Catholic social teaching is when to lead and when to follow, and George learned to trust Dorothy and to follow her," McCandless said.

McCandless said she is motivated to write books that address racism, police violence, white privilege and other issues that are not easily discussed with children.

McCandless said the book contains jazz music and dance moves as well as serious issues. "But it is also a fun book where kids learn about the Lindy Hop and different kinds of sounds and music styles as well," she said.

McCandless said she learned about Catholic social teaching, solidarity and taking action at Carlow, where she was a history major with minors in sociology and women's studies.

While there, she led a student Peace and Justice Club that focused on labor abuses in sweatshops and advocated for Carlow's participation in the Worker Rights Consortium. She later worked as a labor organizer in Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Down on James Street" was presented via Zoom April 30 by the Cultural Theory Historical Practices Lecture Series and The Social Justice Institutes.

Joel Woller, assistant professor of history, was McCandless' student advisor and narrator for the book presentation.

"As a student activist, Nicole heard cries for justice from women and girls of color, often from the other side of the world. Yet she also understood that these seemingly distant sweatshop workers are in fact an essential part of our Carlow community, since they make the uniforms and bookstore merchandise that bears our logo," Woller said.

"She recognized their dignity and responded with mercy and solidarity."

Woller said her book embodies the creative, ethical, scholarly and activist spirit of Carlow.

"Nicole vividly re-creates the fun and excitement of 1930s jazz and swing dancing. The result is an engaging, entertaining, educational and thought-provoking antiracist story for ages 6-12 and up," he said.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Matthew Gordley, PhD, said McCandless' work is a unique combination of historical investigation, artistic imagination and creative expression to help young readers engage with a complex and timely issue.

"Nicole's book is a great embodiment of Carlow's values, as it demonstrates how a liberal arts approach to understanding the human experience can help us reflect on the past to inform the present and to foster the perspectives that can lead to a better future," Gordley said. "It is really wonderful to see the creative and important work that a history graduate like Nicole has been able to produce."

McCandless resides in Pittsburgh's South Hills with her husband Ben and children Jeffrey, Sarah and Samuel. ■





# EMBODYING the *Carlow Spirit:* *A student's heart for serving*

By Sarah Norris

For many first-year students, finding friends and building community can be a challenge. That is why Cheyenne Matthews '21 decided to be a first-year mentor, someone who supports incoming traditional students during their first semester.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Matthews' recent group of first-year students was able to bond because of her dedication to fostering a community of supportive friends.

"There are students who live in Pittsburgh but others who live far away, so I created a group chat for my incoming students. There are some days that the chat gets over 100 messages. It has been a gift to see them encourage each other," Matthews said.

Members of the Carlow community have noticed the impact Matthews has made during her time on campus.

"Her bright personality, invitational approach and genuine enthusiasm about her experience at Carlow have positively influenced the student experience for many Carlow undergraduate students in particular," said Tim Phillips, PhD, vice president of student affairs and dean of students.

Matthews comes from a family whose members make it their mission to serve others.

"My grandmother went to Carlow, and she has been a social worker for a long time. My mom is starting her own company that is geared toward helping others," she said.

"One of the main reasons why I love Carlow is because at its center is Mercy and service. I really like Mercy Service Day

and doing something kind for somebody else," Matthews said.

Matthews' passion to support others goes beyond Carlow. In Pittsburgh, she worked in the Salvation Army's youth and social work department and volunteered with the Hill House Association in Pittsburgh's Hill District. And she plans to continue helping people through her career, embodying the Carlow values rooted in the Sisters of Mercy wherever she goes.

As an undergraduate, Matthews double majored in psychology and creative writing. Her plans are to earn a master's degree in psychology with a concentration in educational psychology at Carlow.

"Poetry has really saved my life, and I hope to use creative writing in my future career as a part of counseling troubled, at-risk youth, especially in the Black community," she said.

Matthews said during her time at Carlow she gained a deep understanding and passion for social justice and hopes to continue that work in her career. She credits the Social Justice Institutes and the Office of Equity and Inclusion for exposing her to influential social justice leaders like Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be Antiracist," who spoke on campus.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Maleea Johnson said she saw Matthews grow as a student and leader during her time at Carlow.

"Her commitment to diversity and inclusion has been demonstrated by her poetry and leadership within various student clubs," Johnson said. "Her attitude is true to the Carlow spirit and one I know she will take forth into this world to make a positive impact." ■

# AD SLIMAN HANGS UP THE WHISTLE

By Karina Graziani



**After 37 years of service at Carlow University,** the last 22 as athletic director, George Sliman has announced his retirement. His leadership helped Carlow's athletic programs blossom from just five women's sports and 65 student-athletes to 14 men's and women's sports and 200 student-athletes.

"For almost four decades, George has been an invaluable asset to Carlow University," said Carlow University President Suzanne K. Mellon. "He has been instrumental in helping to expand athletics at Carlow, greatly enhancing our student experience. George will be sincerely missed, but the University wishes him well in his well-deserved retirement."

Hired in August 1984 as the part-time assistant women's volleyball coach, Sliman guided the team to a 1987 NAIA national tournament appearance, the first in Carlow's history. He became part-time head coach in August 1988. Before he was appointed director of athletics in June 1999, Sliman worked at the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh on such high-profile developments as Heinz Field, PNC Park and PPG headquarters in Market Square.

Sliman's accomplishments include establishing Carlow's Walk of Fame in 2003, one of the athletic department's oldest traditions. Of particular importance to Carlow and its small campus, he spearheaded efforts to secure multiyear facility agreements for the Celtics, most notably Highmark Stadium for soccer, Oakland Catholic High School for basketball, and Alpha Tennis & Fitness. Carlow even hosted the River States Conference (RSC) cross country championship at Schenley Park in 2019.

Sports added under Sliman's tenure include men's and women's cross country, men's basketball, men's soccer, men's and women's golf, men's and women's track and field, and men's volleyball. He also worked to make Carlow athletics more of a competitive

draw for potential students, adding the sports communications manager/recruiting coordinator position to the staff in 2015.

"I'd like to be remembered as someone who tried to be helpful and find solutions both for student-athletes and when working within other areas of the University," Sliman said. "I've tried to improve the student-athlete experience and help students progress toward graduation while playing a sport they love."

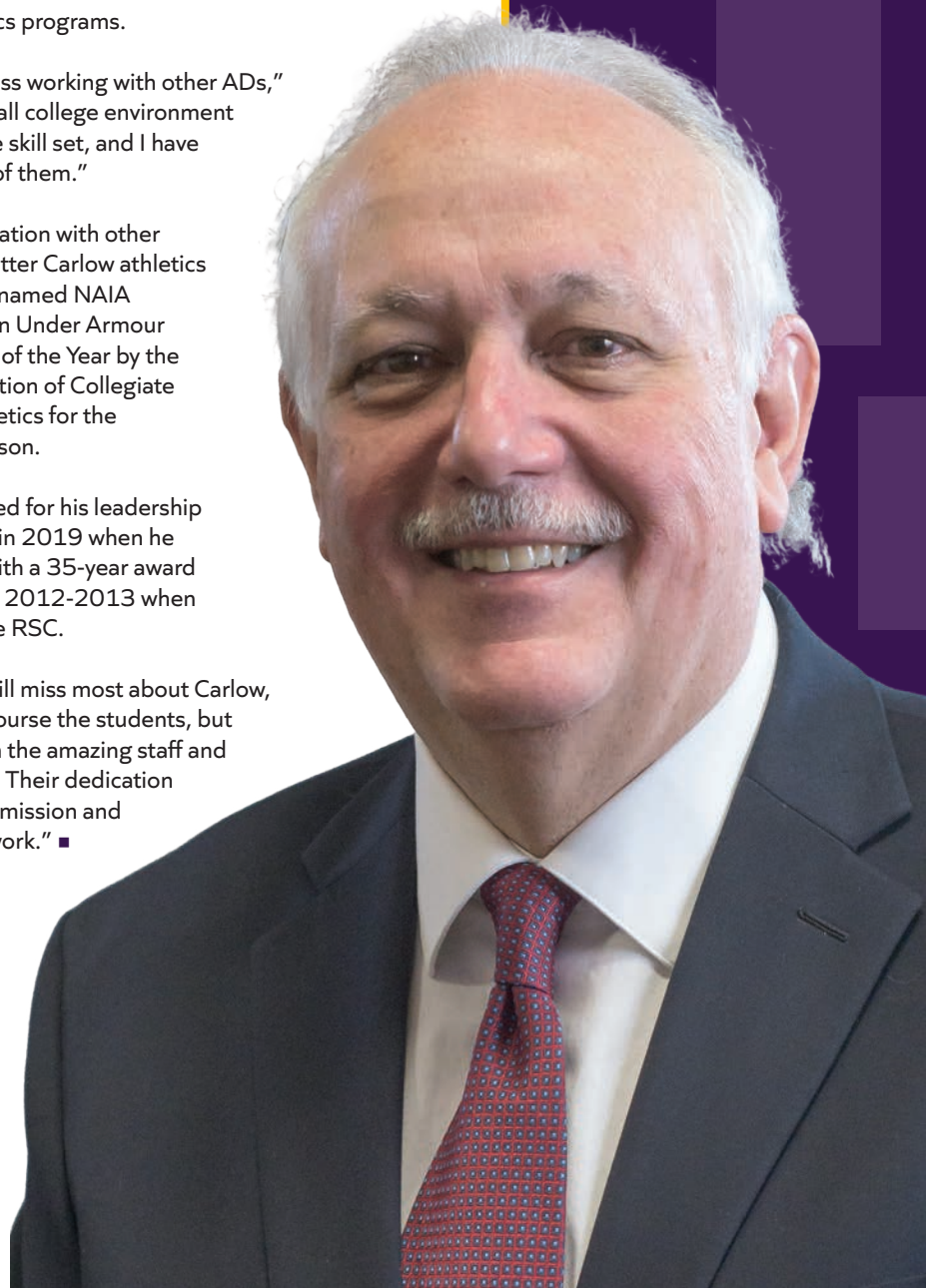
Sliman elevated the role of athletic director, bringing him closer to the Carlow community and to athletic directors of other small university athletics programs.

"I am going to miss working with other ADs," he said. "The small college environment requires a unique skill set, and I have learned from all of them."

Sliman's collaboration with other universities to better Carlow athletics paid off. He was named NAIA Northeast Region Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics for the 2011-2012 season.

He was recognized for his leadership at the University in 2019 when he was presented with a 35-year award for service and in 2012-2013 when Carlow joined the RSC.

Asked what he will miss most about Carlow, he replied, "Of course the students, but also working with the amazing staff and faculty at Carlow. Their dedication to the University mission and values makes it work." ■







# WOMEN *of* SPIRIT®

## HONOR ROLL ADDS SEVEN

By Sean McFarland

Carlow University virtually hosted the 15th annual Women of Spirit® awards April 21.

Seven women were honored for their strong commitment to values, accomplishments that have served as a catalyst for new knowledge or discoveries and innovation, and leadership that has brought about change that benefits humanity.

### THE 2020 AWARDEES ARE:

*pictured above from left to right*

1. The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, president judge, 5th Judicial District, Pennsylvania
2. Cynthia Hundorfean, chief executive officer, president, Allegheny Health Network (AHN)
3. Kristen S. Kurland, professor of architecture, information systems and public policy, Carnegie Mellon University
4. Karen L. Larrimer, executive vice president, chief customer officer, head of retail banking, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
5. Anne V. Lewis, board chair, Oxford Development Company
6. Nancy D. Washington, educator and civic leader
7. Sister Susan Welsh, RSM, president and CEO (retired), Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

# 3333 FIFTH

## news + notes



### ONGOING RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

At the beginning of 2020, we faced an unprecedented global pandemic. As a higher education institution grounded in Catholic, Mercy values, our faculty, staff and students made quick pivots in the delivery of our courses, student support services, campus safety protocols and administrative operations, all with a firm commitment to the “Common Good.” Rooted in our value of the Sacredness of Creation, this ideal continues as people around the country are vaccinated.

Our Re-Entry & Resiliency Plan was a highly effective strategy to manage the pandemic at Carlow. We engaged in a collaborative, regional approach with others to mitigate the spread, and we initiated on-campus screenings through a partnership with Integrated Health 21, eventually transitioning to a self-screening model. On-campus testing for athletes and resident students followed. And by April 2021, we began offering on-campus Moderna vaccinations for faculty, staff and students in the Phase 1A group who wished to receive the vaccine. We were the first in the region to offer the vaccine to clinical students and staff, keeping them on track for clinical experience completion in what was already a very difficult semester.

We continue to conduct weekly surveillance testing in the residence halls, and random testing for approximately 10-20% of our student population. Student athletes continued to be tested twice weekly during competition periods. There have been 67 confirmed cases among faculty, staff and students, less than 1% of the campus community.

Carlow’s residential students and all student-athletes will be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine prior to their fall return to campus.

### CARLOW UNIVERSITY WELCOMES SIX NEW TRUSTEES

Six new trustees were elected to the Board of Trustees:

- + Karen Manna, vice president and senior investment analyst, Federated-Hermes Inc.
- + Steve Massaro, president, Massaro Corp.
- + Lourdes Sánchez-Ridge, partner. Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick, Raspanti, LLC
- + Carolina Vélez, account executive, Microsoft Corp.
- + Lara Washington, president, Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corp.
- + Latasha Wilson-Batch, executive director, Best of the Batch Foundation

### NEW PROGRAMS

- + 3-Year Degrees: With a fall 2020 launch, several programs can be taken in an accelerated three-year format
- + BS Health Sciences: Launch fall 2021
- + MS Speech-Language Pathology: Launch fall 2021
- + MS Physician Assistant: Launch fall 2022
- + MS and OTD Occupational Therapy: Launch fall 2022
- + DPT Physical Therapy Launch fall 2023





## CAMPUS LABORATORY SCHOOL OF CARLOW UNIVERSITY DESIGNATED AS AFFILIATED MEMBER OF MERCY EDUCATION AND A “NO PLACE FOR HATE” SCHOOL

The Campus Laboratory School (CLS) is proud to be an affiliated member of Mercy Education. Affiliated schools and Mercy Education share mutual accountability for the life and growth of the school’s Mercy mission, expressed through the Mercy charism and Catholic identity.

“This affiliation has opened us up to a wide variety of resources and collaboration opportunities,” said Jessica Webster, head of school. “This is our tradition, and we are focusing on what it actually means to live out our Mercy values.”

Since its affiliation, CLS has been a part of several cohorts with other Mercy Education schools.

“We have had collaborations via Zoom with people from all over the world, and we get to see so many different perspectives from others,” said Sarah Posti, director of curriculum and assessment.

CLS is also proud to be a “No Place for Hate” school. Schools designated as such commit to fighting against anti-Semitism, bigotry and racism and promoting inclusion and collaboration.

Eighth-grader Matthew Evans said the students work hard to include everyone.

“We treat others how we would want to be treated, and we don’t want anyone to be left out of something,” he said. “Welcoming others is who we are as a school.”

CLS students and faculty have already been involved with several events hosted by the Social Justice Institutes at Carlow University and continue to plan for more opportunities and initiatives that root them in the traditions of Mercy.

## FACULTY EMERITI NAMED

Four faculty members have been named faculty emeriti, effective July 1, 2021. Emeriti is a meritorious status that recognizes excellence in teaching, advising, scholarship and service, as well as a deep commitment to the mission of the University. Faculty are nominated for the honor by the Promotion, Tenure and Evaluation Committee, and, with the full endorsement of the provost, are submitted to the president for approval. In addition to their merits, the nominees must hold the rank of associate professor or full professor and have served at Carlow University for at least 10 years.

**John “Jack” Alverson, PhD, Professor of Theology:** Among his many roles on campus, Alverson most recently served as co-chair and then chair of the Humanities Department. Alverson has devoted his 30-year career at Carlow as a “teacher-scholar” and as a faculty

leader in promoting liberal arts education grounded in Catholic intellectual tradition and Catholic social teaching through Mercy heritage.

**Cindy Fickley, DNP, MSN, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing:** Fickley began her Carlow career in 2002. She has educated and influenced many generations of students by providing them with the skills and tools they need to be effective, empathetic and caring nurses. She is highly regarded by students, faculty, clinicians, health care providers and staff. Among her many achievements at Carlow, she was awarded the Advanced Digital Learning Innovations Faculty Award for Carlow University in 2019 and the Cameo of Caring Faculty Award in 2011.

**Marilyn Llewellyn, PhD ’73, Professor of Education:** For 23 years, Llewellyn has been a centerpiece in Carlow’s education program.

She has impacted thousands of graduates who are current educators or school administrators. She has also served in various capacities, including dean for the College of Education. Her work earned her the Max and Esther Sestili Award for Excellence in Teaching and the St. Thomas Aquinas Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Dale Huffman, Chair of Art Department:** An internationally renowned potter, Huffman has been teaching at Carlow since 1996. He has designed and built kilns and conducted workshops in Europe and the United States. His writings about ceramics have been included in books and periodicals in England, Germany, Ireland, Australia and the United States. Huffman established the Bows in the Night project, which has raised more than \$500,000 for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest.

## GRANTS

**Heinz Endowments:** The Heinz Endowments made a \$1 million grant and a \$1 million endowment to support Carlow's Western Pennsylvania Early Childhood Apprenticeship Hub. A portion of the grant was reallocated to the Pittsburgh Public Schools and community partners to support innovative approaches to promote healthy social, emotional and cognitive experiences for young children, families and teachers impacted by COVID-19 in Pittsburgh Public Schools' early childhood programs. In addition, this grant expanded Carlow's pre-apprenticeship program and internship program for high school students.

**U.S. Department of Education:** Carlow University received a \$1,305,940 TRiO Student Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education, payable over five years. Federal TRiO programs help students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including low-income and first-generation students and individuals with disabilities, progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

**Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education: Professional Development Organization:** A \$475,797 grant will support early childhood workforce scholarships for the Western Pennsylvania Early Childhood Apprenticeship program and pilot for an early childhood workforce website for state coaches.

Carlow was awarded a \$886,892 grant to support childcare providers who attend a college or university program. Most of the grant supports tuition for Carlow's Early Childhood Apprenticeship program. The funding agency also awarded additional money for a Southwest workforce coordinator in the Center for 21st Century Innovation and Workforce Development.

**National Science Foundation:** Carlow received a grant of \$649,826 from the National Science Foundation to be used for the recruitment, retention, graduation and placement of academically talented students with financial need majoring in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Chemistry, biology and data analytics majors are eligible for up to \$10,000. The grant also will support the formation of two learning communities, one to support student success and the other for faculty in STEM fields to share best practices.

**Health Resources and Services Administration:** Carlow University received a grant of \$251,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program for the 2020-2021 academic year. The program provides financial assistance to working nurses seeking to advance their careers, including Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students interested in pursuing positions in nursing education. Graduate students can have up to 85% of their student loans forgiven if they obtain a full-time-equivalent faculty position within one year of graduation.

**McElhattan Foundation and The Grable Foundation:** Carlow will use a \$450,000 grant from the McElhattan Foundation and The Grable Foundation (\$225,000 each) for the Power of ONE project, which aims to diversify the teaching pipeline by providing scholarships for individuals in the Sto-Rox School District, Pittsburgh.

**The Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation:** Carlow received two grants totaling \$113,000 from the Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation. The grants will be used for an outdoor learning classroom and mobile Makerspace for the Campus Laboratory School, the nursing program's Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning, and a new project, The Sister Mary Paul Hickey Educator Development Project - which focuses on the professional growth of teachers.

**The Council of Independent Colleges:** Carlow University received a \$10,000 Humanities Research for the Public Good grant from The Council of Independent Colleges to support an interdisciplinary undergraduate research project centered on the International Poetry Forum archives. This yearlong project, which aims to showcase a final exhibition in the University Art Gallery and a series of public programs designed and implemented in collaboration with the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh, is an opportunity for Carlow students to further engage with the surrounding West Oakland community.

# PLAY FOR CARLOW

## WOMEN'S TEAMS:

Basketball | Cross Country | Golf  
Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field  
Soccer | Softball | Tennis | Volleyball

## MEN'S TEAMS:

Basketball | Cross Country | Golf  
Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field  
Soccer | Volleyball



[ATHLETICS.CARLOW.EDU](https://athletics.carlow.edu)





## COACH QUICKLY ASSEMBLES STRONG INAUGURAL MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Assembling a new collegiate sports team in nine months is challenging enough on its own. But add a global pandemic year and the inability to scout and interview in person, and the task becomes even more daunting.

Val Pennington accepted the challenge and accomplished the task. Hired in May 2020 as head coach of Carlow University's inaugural men's volleyball team, Pennington readied his nine-member roster for competition in the NAIA tri-match tournament in Kentucky in February.

"The good thing is, Pittsburgh is a hotbed of volleyball talent. We put together a very small team, half of the size for competition at this level, but what we lacked in size and ability we made up for in moxie," he said. "I'm really, really proud of them."

A 1986 graduate of the former Peabody High School in Pittsburgh, Pa., Pennington coached inaugural teams at Peabody and the former Mount Alvernia High School, also in Pittsburgh. He also coached at Moon Area and Central Catholic high schools near Pittsburgh, as well as men's club volleyball at the University of Pittsburgh, where he attended.

## COLLEGE CONSOLIDATIONS

In 2020, Carlow University consolidated two colleges into one to foster integrated disciplinary collaboration and promote liberal arts education across the University. The new College of Arts and Sciences is a consolidation of the previous College of Leadership and Social Change and the College of Learning and Innovation.

There are six departments within the College of Arts and Sciences, which combine cross-disciplinary programming within the honors and experiential learning programs; the Carlow Compass, a general education curriculum rooted in the importance of the liberal arts; the Catholic intellectual tradition; and Mercy heritage.

The six departments are:

- + Department of Art, Communication and English
- + Department of Education and Liberal Studies
- + Department of Analytical, Physical and Social Sciences
- + Department of Business Management, Accounting and Ethics
- + Department of Biological Sciences
- + Department of Psychology, Counseling and Criminology

## ACCREDITATIONS

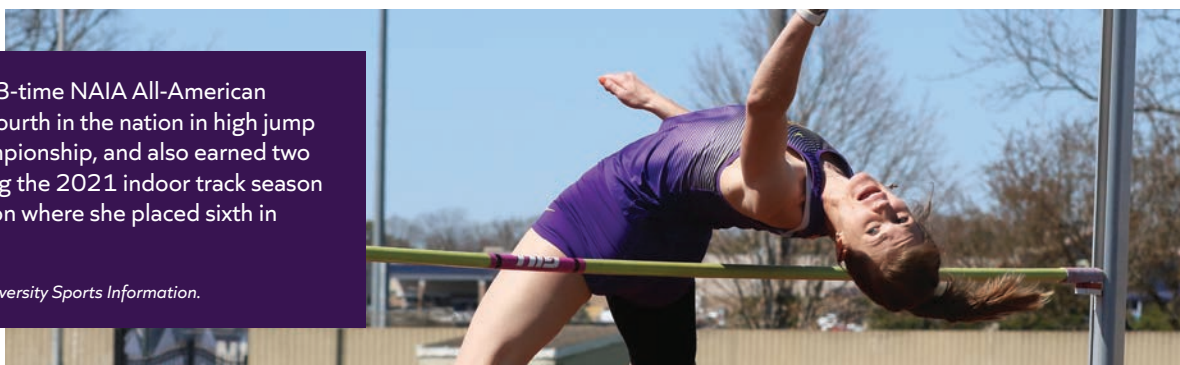
Carlow University's Master of Social Work (MSW) program has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Initial accreditation is usually granted for four years, and then on eight-year intervals moving forward.

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology awarded Carlow's MS in Speech-Language Pathology the Level II candidacy for a period of five years (Feb. 1, 2021-Jan. 31, 2026). Award of candidacy allows the program to matriculate students into the program as it continues to document compliance with accreditation standards for the duration of the candidacy accreditation cycle.

Three new graduate health science programs—Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy—are in the process of obtaining provisional accreditation from their respective governing bodies.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to 3-time NAIA All-American **Olivia Miller**. She placed fourth in the nation in high jump at the 2021 outdoor championship, and also earned two All-American honors during the 2021 indoor track season in high jump and pentathlon where she placed sixth in each event.

*Photo courtesy of Murray State University Sports Information.*



## 2021 CARLOW LAUREATE AWARDS



Kathleen (Bollen) Gaberson, PhD



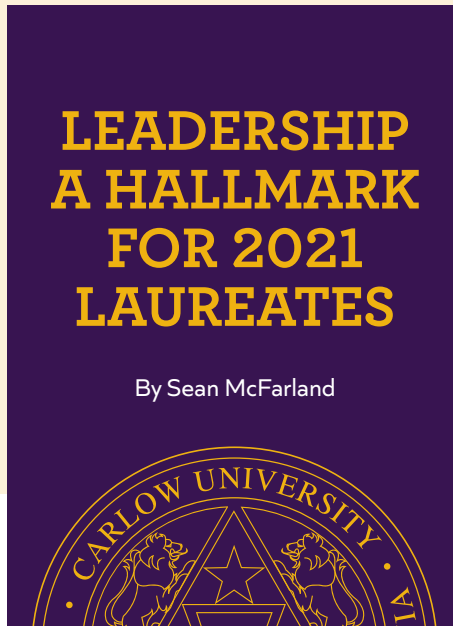
Capt. Madelyn Reyes, DNP



Nancy (Picciano) Zimmerman, PhD



Chanessa Schuler



Barbara L. Gilles

**Being named a Carlow Laureate is an honor that few achieve.** Given annually, this accolade recognizes Carlow graduates who have made profound, lasting contributions to their fields, academics and the community.

"One of the historic strengths of Carlow University is its ability to transform and develop students into high-achieving, compassionate, ethical leaders in their

respective fields," said President Suzanne K. Mellon, PhD. "The honor that best recognizes these outstanding individuals is the Carlow Laureate award, the most prestigious award that can be bestowed on our alumni."

Carlow Laureates embody Carlow's core values and mission. They are ethical leaders committed to a just and merciful world.

The 2021 Laureates, who were honored in a May virtual ceremony, are Kathleen (Bollen) Gaberson, PhD; Capt. Madelyn Reyes, DNP; Nancy (Picciano) Zimmerman, PhD; Chanessa Schuler, young Laureate; and Barbara L. Gilles, honored posthumously.

Congratulations to the 2021 class of Carlow Laureates. ■



# Alumni ACTIVITIES

For information on upcoming events, visit [alumni.carlow.edu](http://alumni.carlow.edu).

## NEWS

### 1940s

**Alice Leban Lipscomb 1946**, of Los Angeles, Calif., traveled in October 2019 to Rivergaro, Piacenza, Italy to visit Theresa Losi, the daughter of Madeline Tomasetti 1946. She fondly remembers Fran Wholey 1946 and learning about fermentation on a chemistry class field trip to the Rolling Rock brewery where the father of Eleanor Gedlar 1946 was the brewmaster.

### 1950s

**Mary Jo Dunn Wuenschel 1952** published "Adventures in Ministry," which tells her family's remarkable story of their 35 years working in the Catholic church. She is the retired associate director of religious education for the Archdiocese Galveston-Houston, Texas.

### 1960s

**E. Jeanne Adamson Gleason 1960** has been named trustee emerita of Carlow University. The designation is given to a former board member who has shown significant dedication to the University.

**Geraldine Pociboreck Petrak 1964** moved from Beavercreek, Ohio, to Broomfield, Colo., to be near family of two children and four grandchildren.

**Sister Sheila Carney, RSM 1967** has been elected vice chair of the board of Mercy International Association. She also chairs the committee on Mercy Global Action, which coordinates an international Mercy justice agenda, including the Mercy office at the UN.

### 1970s

**Kathleen Bollen Gaberson, PhD, RN, CNOR, CNE, ANEF 1970** published the sixth edition of her book "Evaluation and Testing in Nursing Education."

**Janet Bellotti Puppo, PhD 1972** published a book, "Suffering Makes You Beautiful: A Theology of Suffering Flowing From the Word."

### 1980s

**Sandra L. Bihary Waltz, DBA, MSN, RN 1980** was selected as one of Delaware's Top Women in Business, in recognition of her work providing strategic advice to companies in developing pharmaceutical products across the country and globe.

**Deborah Lux, JD 1980** retired in August 2020 after a 34-year career as a first assistant public defender for Centre County, Pa.

**Marion David McGowan, PhD, MPH 1981** was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer of Baystate Health in Massachusetts.

**Sister Susan Fazzini, OSB 1983** was featured in an article in the Global Sisters Report, a project of the National Catholic Reporter, about her work as a drug and alcohol counselor at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution in Greene County, Pa.

**Melanie M. Heuston, DNP, RN, NEA-BC 1984**, Meritus Health's chief nursing and patient care services officer, received the 2020 Certified Nurse Award in the Nurse Executive, Advanced category, from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

**Janet Barlett, CFRE 1987**, a consultant with Advancement Advisors, retired July 1, 2020, capping off a stellar 33-year career in fundraising. Her fundraising experience included positions at Carlow University, Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, Grove City College, Presbyterian SeniorCare Foundation and the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation.

### 1990s

**Howard B. Slaughter Jr., DSc 1993**, president and chief executive officer of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh (Habitat Pittsburgh), has been elected by the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank Pittsburgh) to a public interest independent director position effective Jan. 1, 2020.

**Rebecca Baker 1995** has joined Bloomberg Environment as an editor and team leader. She has been managing editor and deputy team



Georgia Decker 1968, pictured far right with Celtic Simulation Center for Innovative Learning staff and nursing student. Decker lives in Albany, N.Y. and recently came back to tour the campus.



Thembeke Mason 1980, Abington, Pa.



Joanne Condi 1976, Denton, Texas



Kate Smith 1960, Los Altos Hills, Calif.

leader, IP, tech and privacy news, at Bloomberg Law since April 2018.

**Mary Higgins Kieler, MS, BSN 1995, 2016** passed the certified clinical documentation specialist (CCDS) exam in November 2019 after working as a CDS at AHN Canonsburg Hospital for only four years.

**Tisha Odelli Doohen 1995** is pursuing a doctorate in education at Saint Leo University. She has been assistant principal of Land O'Lakes High School in Florida since 2016.

## 2000s

**Robin Bryce 2000** was nominated for the Yuvapai County Teacher of the Year award for her work with the Prescott Unified School District in Arizona. She is an educational technology specialist and certified Google teacher and trainer.

**Mary Catherine Reljac, EdD 2001** was appointed as superintendent of the Fox Chapel Area School District April 28, 2020.

**Lisa Piocquidio Johnson 2001** has developed a self-defense and personal safety program called Fearless Female. Since its founding in 2013, Fearless Female has been able to educate more than 3,000 women and children from ages 8 to 80. She is a certified instructor in Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Systems of Self Defense.

**Patricia A. Lavery, MSPL 2002** was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie, Pa. July 16, 2020, by the Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe, bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania. She will serve as vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Grove City, Pa.

**Melissa M. Sovak, PhD 2003** published two novels under her pen name, Nellie H. Steele: "The Secret of Dunhaven Castle" and "Shadows of the Past."

**LaVonda Kaye Large 2003** spoke at The Times Women's Expo in February 2020. The topic of her speech was "Career Planning and Goal Setting for Today's Woman." She is the office manager of Large Chiropractic Clinic in Monaca, Pa. and is founder of Kaye Natural Beauty, an organic skincare line of beauty products she developed and formulated.

**Heather T. Aguillon 2005** was selected from more than 60 applicants to be the new academic program coordinator for the Challenger Learning Center at Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas.

**Megan E. Shulman 2006** was appointed as grants writer and grants administrator with Helping Hands of Middle and West Tennessee, a medical nonprofit located in Jackson, Tenn.

**Cathy A. Light 2007** joined Caltech as secretary to the board of trustees effective January 2021. In this role, she will serve as the chief liaison to the board to facilitate their governance and fiduciary responsibilities for Caltech.

**Janette E. Schafer 2007** co-authored and edited "Is It Hot In Here Or Is it Just Me?: Women Over Forty Write on Aging." This collection of anthologies by international women writers was published in December 2019.

**Veronica A Slain, MEd 2007** is principal at Espiritu Santo Catholic School in Safety Harbor, Fla. The school was named a National Blue Ribbon Exemplary Performing School for 2019.

**Karen Struble Myers 2007** was named CEO of the United Way of the Laurel Highlands in March 2020.

**Dana Minucci Bloomberg, MSN, CRNP 2008** celebrated 10 years of service with The Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health. The Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health is southwestern Pennsylvania's only licensed and accredited freestanding birth center offering primary gynecological care, prenatal care, childbirth, and behavioral health and wellness care.

**Maisha M. Howze 2008** published a self-help book titled "W.A.S.H. (Withstand All Strife to Heal), Time To Do YOUR Laundry." The book is designed to give people the strength to outwardly express their problems and then begin the self-healing process.

**Megan E. Walsh, MBA, CFE 2008** has been admitted to partnership of the regional certified public accounting and financial consulting firm Sisterson & Co. LLP. She is responsible for field examination and due diligence services to various financial institutions regarding asset-based commercial loans with a focus on collateral risk mitigation.

**Ashley Ayres 2009** was featured on "Good Morning America" for her work on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has led teams of volunteers and helped hundreds of people per day get tested for the virus through her leadership of a UPMC testing site.

## 2010s

**Maria S. Allshouse 2010** was named Woman of the Year by Women's Interactive Network (WIN) in February 2021. She is president and CEO of Maria S. Allshouse LLC Healthy Lifestyle Coaching and Corporate Wellness Consulting.

**Emme Devonish, JD, PhD, MFA 2010** was named the University Ethics Officer in the Office of Ethics and compliance at Penn State University in September 2020.

**Sabrina Saunders Mosby 2011** began a new role as CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh in November 2019. Mosby previously served as president and CEO of CORO Pittsburgh and executive director of Strong Women, Strong Girls.

**Jacqueline M. Foradori, MBA 2012, 2013** was elected as the 2020 president of Pittsburgh Young Professionals (PYP). PYP provides career-minded individuals with opportunities to develop socially, professionally and civically. She is the business operations manager for Locomotion, a transportation and trucking firm based in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Ray Price 2012** published a children's book, "Build with Bricks: A Pigquel to The Three Little Pigs," in October 2020.

**Amy Britt, APRN 2015** joined a new health care clinic of HSHS Medical Group and HSHS St. Elizabeth's Outpatient Therapy in Edwardsville, Ill.

**Joshua Allenberg, JD 2015** was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in December 2019. He was promoted to vice president of the Financial Crimes Compliance division at BNY Mellon in January 2021.

**Tracy J. Edelstein, DNP, RN, NEA-BC 2015** was named vice president and chief nursing officer of Bethesda Hospital in November 2019.

**Francis Feld, DNP, CRNA 2016** completed a medical mission trip to Antigua Guatemala with Operation Walk Pittsburgh. The surgical teams performed 57 hip and knee replacement surgeries on 41 patients in four days with many patients receiving bilateral replacements. He is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at UPMC Passavant Hospital.

**Bonnie Landgraf, MSN 2016** began caring for patients at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Larned, Kan. She is also pursuing a DNP at Fort Hays State University, where she serves as a pediatric nursing instructor.

**Tamare Piersaint, PsyD, CRC, LPC 2016** was selected as a recipient of the 2020 Pittsburgh Circle of Courage Awards. Awardees selected for this honor include individuals from various industries who have demonstrated faith and courage in their chosen fields.

**Deirdra DiVittis 2017** accepted an alumni volunteer appointment to serve as the Region H finance chair for the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity in August 2020. She started a new position as a staff accountant at Clarus Partners Advisors, an indirect tax firm, June 1, 2020.

**Margo Dolgos 2018** received the 2019 Teacher of the Year award during her first year of teaching. She is the K-3 art teacher at the Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School in Brooklyn, N.Y.



**Sherry Watkins, MSN, MBA 2018** was appointed senior vice president of nursing at Monongahela Valley Hospital.

**Jessica Pierce, MBA 2018** joined Orion Strategies as an account executive.

**Elizabeth Powell 2018** was featured in a December 2019 article in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review about Opening Minds through Art, an art program for people living with memory loss conditions at the Pittsburgh Jewish Association on Aging. She began a new role as art education coordinator for the Jewish Association on Aging in February 2019.

**Sydney Stephenson, MS 2018** was interviewed by a reporter for "The Today Show's" pet page about the animal-assisted therapy she does with her cat Thea and survivors of trauma. The story was picked up by *People Magazine's* blog, several news websites across the country, Yahoo! News in Canada, the UK and New Zealand, and websites in France, Mexico and Serbia. She and her cat were also interviewed for "Pittsburgh Today Live." She credits the help of the wonderful professors and program at Carlow for her success.

**Jasmine Cho 2019** was named a 40 Under 40 honoree by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and PUMP. This award recognizes outstanding individuals under the age of 40 whose creativity, vision and passion enrich the Pittsburgh region.

## **BIRTHS**

### **2000s**

**Jennifer Horwat Fitzhenry 2001** and her husband, John Fitzhenry, welcomed their first daughter, Mary Clare Fitzhenry, born Nov. 24, 2019. Mary Clare joins their son, James John Fitzhenry, adopted Nov. 19, 2018.

### **2010s**

**Danielle LaCava Stemple 2008** and Ryan Stemple 2010 welcomed the birth of their first child, Julia Parker Stemple, Nov. 22, 2019.

**Monet Sulkowski 2010** and her husband, William Hasek, welcomed their son, Adlai Sulkowski-Hasek, May 13, 2020.

## **SYMPATHY TO**

### **1950s**

**Frances Hvizdos Foley 1952** for the loss of her sisters, **Elizabeth Hvizdos Reed 1961**, Jan. 8, 2020 and **Macrina Hvizdos Seitz**, May 5, 2020.

**Regina McDonough Theisen, MEd 1953** and **Katherine McDonough Madden 1955** for the loss

of their sister, **Helen P. McDonough 1949**, Nov. 24, 2020.

**Dolores Kennedy Albright 1954** for the loss of her husband, George Albright, MD, Feb. 14, 2020.

**Kathleen McClain Lee 1955** for the loss of her husband, Robert E. Lee Sr., MD, Oct. 29, 2020.

**Lois Miller Huston 1958** for the loss of her husband, Edward Gerald "Jerry" Huston, June 23, 2020,

**Mary Ann Evers Jones 1958** for the loss of her husband, Tom, March 12, 2020.

**Ellie Buntag Wymard, PhD 1958** for the loss of her husband, Joseph (Joe) Wymard, March 13, 2020.

**Mary Virginia Kenna Hofmeister 1959** for the loss of her sister, **Marita D. Kenna, MD 1945**, Nov. 13, 2019.

### **1960s**

**Mary Jo Federici Ufema 1964** for the loss of her mother, **Mary Frances Vitarelli Federici 1972**, Jan. 2, 2020.

**Rita Lanz Pirone 1965** for the loss of her husband, Angelo Pirone, Dec. 15, 2019.

**Jane Dankmyer Eacobacci 1966** for the loss of her sister, **Nancy Ellen Dankmyer Casey 1971**, July 31, 2020.

**Andrea Mastro, PhD 1966** for the loss of her husband, William D. Taylor, PhD, March 8, 2020.

**Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Canterna Douglass 1967** for the loss of her husband, David, in September 2019.

**Marlene "Sam" Simpson Gardner 1969** for the loss of her husband, Russell H. Gardner, April 8, 2021.

**Cynthia Corbin McNay 1969** for the loss of her mother, Anna M. Corbin, April 15, 2020.

### **1970s**

**Bonnie Swegman Barlow 1970** for the loss of her husband, James C. Barlow, Sept. 23, 2019.

**The Honorable Margaret A. Mangan, JD 1970** for the loss of her brother, William V. Mangan Jr., May 15, 2020.

**Mary Ellen Perfett Hilko 1971** for the loss of her sister, Sue Ann Perfett Danko 1980, May 25, 2020.

**Patricia Urban Rusnak 1972** for the loss of her husband, John Rusnak, Nov. 15, 2019.

**Judith Kaspic LaSpada 1973** for the loss of her husband, Lawrence P. LaSpada Jr., Dec. 30, 2019.

**Anne L. Parry 1973** for the loss of her mother, Margery Brahmer Parry 1945, Feb. 10, 2020.

**Lorraine Lookabaugh Azzarone 1974** for the loss of her mother, Alice Lookabaugh, Dec. 26, 2020.

**Mary James Lyons 1974** for the loss of her husband, Terence Lyons, Sept. 30, 2019.

**Suzanne Vertosick 1974** and Christine Vertosick 1974 for the loss of their father, Frank Vertosick, March 4, 2021.

**Christine Shento Burger 1975**, for the loss of her mother, Patricia Shento Roman, Aug. 2, 2019, and her stepfather, Joseph Roman, Aug. 28, 2019.

**Susan Maraglino RN, BSN, CRC, LNCC 1975** for the loss of her son, Aaron Albert Siegel, RN, March 18, 2021.

**Deborah Lewis Carlino 1976** for the loss of her husband, Frank Carlino, Aug. 3, 2019.

**Adrian Mangan Flink 1976** for the loss of her brother, William V. Mangan Jr., May 15, 2020.

**Jeanette Titus Lockovich 1976** for the loss of her mother, Marie Jeanette Donahue Titus, March 18, 2021.

**Mary Lu Quehl 1977** for the loss of her cousin, **Joan Atkins Neuwar 1958**, Feb. 6, 2021.

### **1980s**

**Thembeke Mkhize Mason, PhD 1980** for the loss of her husband, William R. Mason, April 18, 2020.

**Mary Ellinwood Wadsworth, FNP 1980** for the loss of her brother, Michael A. Ellinwood, March 15, 2020.

**Anita L. Williams 1980** for the loss of her mother, Audrey Williams, Feb. 7, 2020.

**Marion Norris 1981** for the loss of her brother, Ken, May 14, 2020.

**Karen Cerilli Edmunds 1982** for the loss of her father, Gene D. Cerilli, Dec. 6, 2020.

**Mildred Alston Jones, PhD, RN 1983** for the loss of her father, Milton Alston Sr., in April 2021.

**Victoria L. Erwin 1988** for the loss of her mother, Joan M. Erwin, Feb. 21, 2020 and her father, David L. Erwin, Oct. 27, 2020.

**Diane Guiardiani Johnson 1988** for the loss of her father, Frank Guardiani, Oct. 26, 2019.

## 1990s

**Christine (Tina) Harper 1990** for the loss of her father, Arthur Tomko, Dec. 18, 2020.

**Betty Jane Aquino 1991** for the loss of her husband, Victor Aquino, Sept. 21, 2018.

**Erma J. Hauser 1992**, 2005 for the loss of her husband, James (Jim) Hauser, Nov. 4, 2019.

**Deborah Golian Ianarelli 1993** for the loss of her father, Thomas J. Golian, May 31, 2019.

**Kerry E. Paustenbach 1993** for the loss of her father, Ronald Paustenbach, Jan. 4, 2020.

**Cathy Slezak-Hampton 1993** for the passing of her mother, Catherin Robosky Slezak, Aug. 17, 2020.

**Jodi Salvi Neel 1994** for the loss of her father, Anthony M. Salvi, July 17, 2019.

**Mary Higgins Kieler, MS, BSN 1995, 2016** for the loss of her mother-in-law, Helen Kieler, Oct. 1, 2019.

**Maryah A. Spahr 1995, 2003** for the loss of her father, Thomas Spahr, Jan. 18, 2020.

**Rose T. Wojciechowski** for the loss of her husband, Robert, on Sept. 29, 2019.

**Cara Mowry Chapman 1997** for the loss of her father, Charles L. Mowry Sr., July 8, 2019.

**Jennifer L. Dayton 1998** for the loss of her father, William Dayton, June 17, 2019.

**Kimberly Saksun Marshall 1998** for the loss of her mother, Charlesa L. Saksun, Nov. 9, 2020.

**Jenny L. Schleifer 1999** for the loss of her uncle, Theodore J. "Ted" Schleifer III 1992, Dec. 22, 2020.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Ollis Barker 2001** for the loss of her father, Emery J. Ollis, Sept. 12, 2019.

**Jennifer M. Boag 2007** for the loss of her mother, Jeanne Turba, Aug. 26, 2019.

**AnneMarie Hansen Boeve 2009** for the loss of her father, John Hansen, Nov. 17, 2019.

**Amber Bartakovich Hessom, CPA 2009** for the loss of her mother, Diana J. Bartakovich, Feb. 8, 2020.

## 2010s

**Gina C. Chesterfield 2013** for the loss of her mother, Celeste D'Antonio 2010, 2011, Sept. 6, 2020.

**Scott P. Stauffer 2015** for the loss of his father, Lee S. Stauffer, Dec. 12, 2019.

**Patricia Cramer Almasy 2019** for the loss of her father, William Cramer, Oct. 4, 2019.

## 2020s

**Anna Havrilla 2020** for the loss of her mother, Madeline Havrilla, Nov. 16, 2019.

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1940s

**Ruth Halloran McKenna 1943**, Feb. 13, 2020.

**Loretta Jardas Carroll 1945**, Jan. 10, 2021.

**Frances Ranallo DiVella 1945**, Aug. 30, 2019.

**Marita D. Kenna, MD 1945**, Nov. 13, 2019.

**Gilda Aloe Ognibene 1945**, Oct. 31, 2019.

**Margery Brahmer Parry 1945**, Feb. 10, 2020.

**Helen P. McDonough 1949**, Nov. 24, 2020.

**Sister Clare Smith, RSM 1949**, Nov. 9, 2020.

### 1950s

**Albert P. Giordano Jr., PhD 1950**, May 13, 2020.

**Raymond L. Stierer 1950**, Sept. 2, 2019.

**Elizabeth White Flaherty 1951**, Oct. 12, 2019.

**Sister Mary Cordia Grimes, CSJ 1952**, Aug. 23, 2017.

**Ruth Buntich Pisula 1953**, Feb. 20, 2021.

**Delores "Dolly" Kennedy Albright 1954**, May 5, 2020.

**Sister M. Virginia Baker, RSM 1954**, Nov. 23, 2019.

**Rita Bialek Caldwell 1954**, June 27, 2020.

**Eileen Smith Dorman 1954**, July 11, 2020.

**Rose C. Plutnicki 1954**, Dec. 13, 2019.

**Vera Oblak Hawkins 1955**, Oct. 13, 2020.

**Kathleen Riley McGuigan 1955**, July 30, 2020.

**Joan Murphy Erwin 1956**, Feb. 21, 2020.

**Lois Swartzfisher Hatten 1956**, Feb. 21, 2020.

**Marie Cicone Heinle 1956**, April 26, 2020.

**Abigail Foley Moore 1956**, April 3, 2021.

**Eleanor McFadden Peternel 1956**, April 16, 2020.

**Zeletta A. Sailer 1956**, March 30, 2020.

**Carole Ruch Watkins, MEd, BSN 1956**, Feb. 14, 2020.

**Teresa Prendergast Weis 1956**, March 27, 2021.

**Margaret McGurty Keenan 1958**, Nov. 16, 2019.

**Joan Atkins Neuwar 1958**, Feb. 6, 2021.

**Janet Heary Wolfe 1958**, Nov. 30, 2019.

**Rosemary Pollock Bufalini 1959**, Jan. 26, 2021.

**Joy Eiasaman Martz 1959**, July 13, 2019.

**Loretta McBride 1959**, Jan. 23, 2017.

### 1960s

**Agnes Siler Pasky 1960**, Sept. 2, 2019.

**Sister Mary Louise Simmons, CSJ 1960**, March 16, 2021.

**Ann Fleming Brannan 1961**, Dec. 1, 2019.

**Sister Susan McVicker, RSM 1961**, May 10, 2020.

**Elizabeth Hvizdos Reed 1961**, Jan. 8, 2020.

**Sister Eileen Sweeney, CSJ 1961**, Feb. 26, 2021.

**Mary Dolores Marguglio Herbst 1962**, May 19, 2020.

**Macrina Hvizdos Seitz 1962**, May 5, 2020.

**Sister Susanne Watson, RSM 1962**, Nov. 11, 2019.

**Mary Louise Pringle Dickerson 1963**, March 29, 2021.



**Patricia Donovan Dunlap 1963**, Dec. 3, 2019.

**Nancy Protz Gregris 1963**, Nov. 24, 2019.

**Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Bergman 1964**,  
Jan. 8, 2020.

**Rosalie F. Harrington 1964**, Sept. 19, 2019.

**Kathleen Greer Pintell 1964**, Dec. 24, 2020.

**Nancy B. Greer 1965**, March 2020.

**Patricia O'Neill McCarthy 1965**,  
May 31, 2020.

**Roseann Crooks 1966**, Dec. 1, 2019.

**Margo Olsen Lane 1966**, Feb. 28, 2021.

**Sharon St. Clair Dymowski 1967**, Dec. 7, 2019.

**Meredith Farrell Naples 1967**, Dec. 21, 2019.

**Sister Frances Omodio, CSJ 1967**,  
June 26, 2020.

**Toni K. Roman 1967**, Dec. 24, 2020.

**Sister Leona Stumpf, RSM 1967**,  
Feb. 15, 2021.

**Sister Mary Damian Waldron, RSM 1967**,  
Nov. 6, 2019.

**Sister Marguerite Coyne, CSJ 1968**,  
Jan. 14, 2021.

**Sister Elaine Clarita DiZinno, CSJ 1968**,  
June 28, 2020.

**Ramona Cyrus Grigsby 1968**, Jan. 23, 2019.

**Patricia O'Donnell Brandt 1969**,  
Feb. 10, 2020.

## 1970s

**Sister Mary Regina Adams, OSBM 1970**,  
Feb. 3, 2021.

**Sister Marilyn Washington, CSJ 1970**,  
Nov. 13, 2020.

**Nancy Ellen Dankmyer Casey 1971**,  
July 31, 2020.

**Margaret C. "Peggie" Schmitt 1971**,  
April 15, 2021.

**Mary Frances Vitarelli Federici 1972**,  
Jan. 2, 2020.

**Margaret Koval Veoni 1972**, May 23, 2020.

**Patricia A. Gasda, MEd 1973**, Jan. 24, 2020.

**Nancy Gobeil Gibney 1973**, March 1, 2020.

**Sister Geraldine Ann Kasper, OSF 1973**,  
Feb. 9, 2020.

**Kathleen M. Rachuba 1973**, Nov. 6, 2020.

**Carmelita Ignacia Cabrera Gumataotao 1974**,  
April 19, 2019.

**JoAnn Finan 1975**, Feb. 23, 2021.

**Lois Tapolcai Gezo 1975**, Sept. 29, 2019.

**Janet McCartney Longsdorf 1975**,  
Jan. 1, 2020.

**Mario A. Renzi 1975**, Oct. 15, 2017.

**Mary Louise Danieli 1976**, April 14, 2020.

**Cornelius Kachali, MD 1976**, June 20, 2019.

**Debra "Debbie" Donahoe Wilson 1977**,  
Oct. 9, 2018.

**Jill R. Guenin 1979**, Jan. 2020.

## 1980s

**Sue Ann Perfett Danko 1980**, May 25, 2020.

**Sister Mary Catherine (Cacky) Cudnik, CSJ 1982**, Aug. 26, 2020.

**Joan M. Latsko, DNP, CRNP-BC, AOCNP 1984, 2010**, Nov. 14, 2020

**Dana M. Kohnen 1985**, Nov. 23, 2020.

**Eileen Callaghan Murray 1986**, Aug. 31, 2020.

**Frances Bonzo Caldwell 1987**, Feb. 12, 2021.

**Joanne E. Crum 1987**, Aug. 3, 2019.

**Shirley R. Laskie 1987**, Oct. 18, 2020.

**Brenda A. Quinn 1987**, July 16, 2020.

**Sister Genevieve Martineck, CSJ 1988**,  
Aug. 20, 2020

**Gail Meterns 1989**, Nov. 25, 2019.

## 1990s

**Dina Winebold Evans 1990**, Jan. 14, 2021.

**Kimberly Miller Young 1990**, March 31, 2021.

**Theodore J. Schleifer, III 1992**, Dec. 22, 2020.

**Karen L. Cooper, BSN, RN 1996**,  
Dec. 10, 2020.

**Cyndie Aquino-Nordi 1998**, May 16, 2020.

**Jewel M. Fisher 1998**, Feb. 12, 2021.

**Linda L. Ladue 1998**, Aug. 15, 2019.

## 2000s

**Karen A. Clark 2000**, Nov. 26, 2019.

**Barbara J. Krug, BSN 2000**, July 10, 2020.

**Kathryn L. Cline 2003**, July 5, 2020.

**Patricia L. Cowan 2004**, Aug. 5, 2020.

**Jessica L. Berkebile 2006**, Jan. 26, 2020.

**Lacey Sye 2007**, Nov. 27, 2020.

## 2010s

**Celeste A. D'Antonio 2010, 2011**,  
Sept. 6, 2020.

**Kimberly A. Snyder 2014**, July 24, 2020.

## Friends

Joan Frank Apt, 2002 Woman of Spirit®,  
Feb. 15, 2020.

Rosemarie E. Cibik, EdD, 1995  
Woman of Spirit®, Feb. 28, 2020.

Marjorie J. Miket, mother of **Gloria Jean Miket 1968**, Nov. 14, 2019.

Patricia Regan Rooney, matriarch of the  
Rooney family, 1996 Woman of Spirit®,  
and mother of **Mary Rooney Duffy 1988**,  
Jan. 30, 2021.

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