

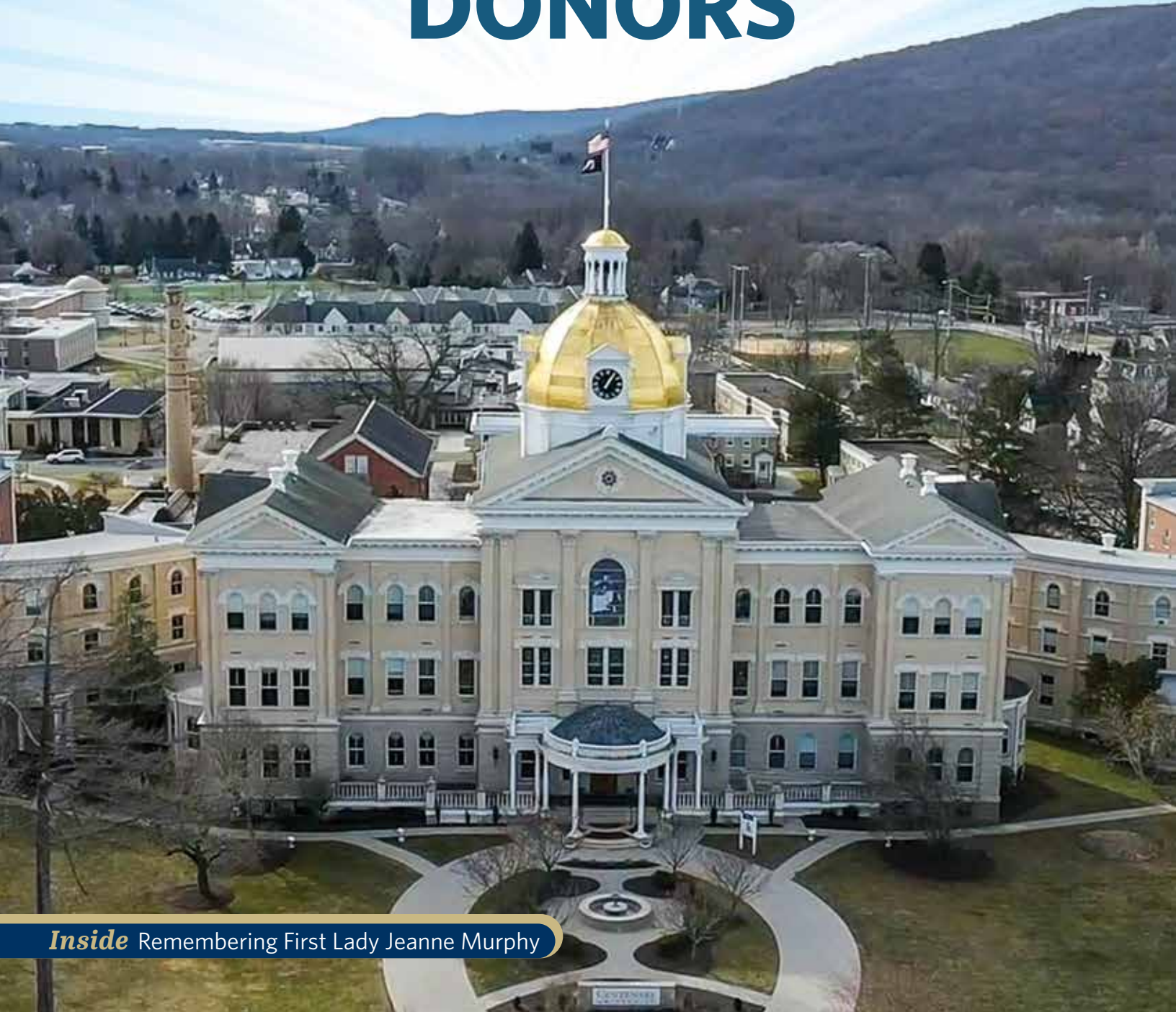


THE MAGAZINE OF **CENTENARY UNIVERSITY**

WINTER 2023

CENTENARIAN

DECADES OF **DONORS**



Inside Remembering First Lady Jeanne Murphy

THE UNIVERSITY MOURNS

The Centenary University community gathered at a candlelight vigil on Jan. 12 to share their grief and remember First Lady Jeanne Murphy, who was beloved by students, faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni.





Thank You

As you know, my beloved wife, Jeanne, was killed on Jan. 8, 2023. I cannot convey to you the deep feelings of loss, sadness, and anger that I am experiencing at this time. However, your expressions of sympathy and condolence have helped me assuage these emotions to some extent.

The celebration of Jeanne's life that took place on Jan. 22 helped me to weather this storm and many of you have expressed to me how it helped you come to grips with Jeanne's passing. To have so many of you be with me in person or on the livestream was indeed bolstering to the soul. Students, staff, faculty, friends, family, neighbors, and strangers all came together to celebrate a remarkable life. You came from as near as next door and as far as Bangladesh to participate in that celebration. The flowers sent by so many, the memories you have shared, and the contributions made in Jeanne's memory demonstrate how deeply you valued her presence in your lives. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Jeanne's final journey will end at Arlington National Cemetery on April 12, where she will be laid to rest near her mother, father, grandparents, and the thousands of soldiers and family members she sought to serve throughout her life.

Bruce Murphy
President

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2. **University News**
- 8. **Centenary Spotlight**
- 10. **Decades of Donors**
Meet five alumni donors who are committed to supporting Centenary University.
- 13. **Remembering Our First Lady**
- 16. **Athletics**
Women's wrestling will debut in 2023-2024.
- 18. **Class News and Notes**

ON THE COVER

Donors from all eras make a difference at Centenary.

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Healthcare Expansion Continues: Centenary Introduces New RN to BSN



Registered nurses in the Skylands Region now have a clear path to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), thanks to a new Centenary University degree program currently enrolling students for the fall 2023 semester. Established through a partnership with Atlantic Health System, the University's 30-credit RN to BSN addresses the critical regional and nationwide need for nurses with advanced training.

Centenary's RN to BSN will assist nurses to adapt to rapidly evolving medical technologies and the complexity of the healthcare system, said Craig Fuller, Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Natural, Health, Social & Behavioral Science. "Nurses with bachelor's degrees are highly sought after to step into leadership roles at healthcare institutions," Dr. Fuller explained. "We need well-trained professionals with strong analytical and leadership skills, who can think critically

and react with empathy to the emerging healthcare needs faced by our nation."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of nurses is projected to increase 7 percent over the next decade. The average age of U.S. nurses was 50 in 2020, with an average retirement age of 62, as reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. In addition, pandemic fatigue has caused many nurses to depart the field.

Centenary University and Atlantic Health System have a shared commitment to addressing this critical need. "Through our shared philosophy regarding education, advancement, and diversity, this partnership will prepare nurses to meet the healthcare needs of our community, in the present and the future," said Trish O'Keefe, Ph.D., RN, president of Morristown Medical Center and senior vice president and chief nurse executive of Atlantic Health System.

The new RN to BSN will be directed by Rebecca Seaman, Ed.D. (see sidebar). It is the latest in a series of new healthcare degrees and concentrations at Centenary, including medical laboratory science, health science, public health, and exercise science. Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., noted that partnerships with industry leaders such as Atlantic Health System ensure that the University's educational offerings are highly relevant: "We're extremely fortunate to partner with Atlantic Health System on this new RN to BSN and help to address the ongoing need for highly-educated nurses in northwestern New Jersey and beyond. This program is one of several ways Centenary University and Atlantic Health System are partnering to improve healthcare in our community."

About the Director

Rebecca A. Seaman, Ed.D., hit the ground running when she arrived at Centenary University last summer. As the director of the new RN to BSN program, she has been charged with finalizing the program's curriculum and setting the groundwork for program accreditation.

"This will be a program of distinction and excellence," said Dr. Seaman, who is working closely with Craig Fuller, Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Natural, Health, Social & Behavioral Science.

An experienced nurse educator, Dr. Seaman holds a BSN and Master of Science in Nursing Education from Cedar Crest College, as well as a Doctor of Education in Higher Education with a concentration in nursing education from Immaculata University. She has spent much of her career in the Lehigh Valley as a nurse educator, most recently serving as the undergraduate program director and assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Cedar Crest College.

Dr. Seaman noted the new degree fills a critical need for qualified nurses, in the Skylands Region and beyond: "There's no question there is a significant nursing shortage that started well before the pandemic. As we headed into the pandemic, it was truly the aging of nurses in the profession. Another factor is the level of care nurses are now required to provide is significantly higher than five or 10 years ago; demands on nurses have increased tenfold."

Meet the Scholars

Bissett-Hill Scholar: Zaria Moore '26



A first-year student at Centenary University with a strong commitment to strengthening race relations and her community is the recipient of the inaugural Grace Y. Bissett and Louise Monez Hill Scholarship at Centenary University. A committee composed of Centenary faculty and administrators reviewed all applications and interviewed finalists before selecting Zaria Moore '26 for the prestigious honor.

The scholarship fund was established through an estate gift from Centenary University alumna **Louise M. Hill '40** in memory of her aunt, Grace Y. Bissett, who made her education possible. The annual scholarship recognizes a student who is dedicated to pursuing a career that improves race relations. It provides recipients with a four-year scholarship covering the full cost of attendance at Centenary—including tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

A business management major with a minor in marketing, Moore is a 2022 graduate of Perth Amboy High School, where she ranked in the top third of her graduating class. She has participated in a number of activities, including working with a local performing arts program to present the journey of racism through a dance performance at Middlesex County College, as well as supporting Black Lives Matter initiatives.

Moore also excelled in other leadership activities, including serving on the student council and as commanding officer of the Perth Amboy High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC). In her local community, Moore was recently appointed to the Perth Amboy Citizen's Public Safety Advisory Board, which examines public issues and develops alternative solutions to enhance community safety.

"Centenary University is proud to recognize Zaria Moore as the inaugural recipient of the Grace Y. Bissett and Louise Monez Hill Scholarship," said Kerry Mullins, scholarship committee chair, who also serves as the University's vice president for student life and dean of students. "Zaria's scholarship application stood out to the committee for her commitment to academics, race relations, leadership, and her local community. We are excited to see her growth as a campus leader at Centenary."

Hackettstown High School Scholar: Andrew Kmetz '26



For Great Meadows resident Andrew Kmetz '26, the decision to attend Centenary University was an easy one. Aspiring to a career in sports management, he was impressed by Centenary's concentration in the field, including the University's excellent track record for placing students and graduates in jobs with professional sports franchises. Then last spring, he received a call with the good news that he was named the Centenary University 2022 Hackettstown High School Scholar, a designation that recognizes outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to community service. The award covers full tuition for four years of study at Centenary.

He was an honor roll student who participated in soccer, basketball, and baseball at Hackettstown High School. Two of his coaches, both of whom are Centenary graduates, urged him to check out the University's concentration in sports and entertainment management: "Both of my coaches studied sports management at Centenary. They knew I was applying for the scholarship, but recommended I

attend Centenary even if I didn't get the full ride."

Community service is important to Kmetz, who was featured in the University's holiday appeal. A member of Scouts BSA Troop 158 in Hackettstown, Kmetz earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2021. His Eagle Scout project—creating fleece blankets for cancer patients at Hackettstown Medical Center—honored his grandmother's successful fight against breast cancer and his late grandfather, a father figure to Kmetz who passed away after battling pancreatic cancer. Reflecting on his full, four-year scholarship, the business administration major said, "I owe everything to my mom. She's been my number one supporter through school, sports, and Eagle Scout."

WE'RE #1

The accolades keep coming for Centenary University, with academic programs and students earning statewide and national recognition for excellence during the fall semester.

National Winners

When it comes to getting out the vote, Centenary students are second to none. The University placed first in the nation among colleges and universities through its participation in Ballot Bowl, a nonpartisan initiative promoting voter registration on college campuses. Centenary bested 178 participating colleges and universities across the nation—including 29 New Jersey institutions of higher education—in the percentage of enrolled students who expressed their intent to vote. Centenary was recognized for its outstanding effort at a virtual ceremony following Election Day.

“Our students are committed to raising awareness and registering their peers to vote so all voices can be heard,” said Kathleen Greco, who coordinates the University’s community engagement. “An important aspect of this program is its commitment to nonpartisanship. Through this effort, students had the opportunity to register to vote, either online or on paper, right here on campus. I’m truly proud of what Centenary students accomplished.”

A host of Centenary student groups spearheaded the effort, including several fraternities and sororities, Enactus, Leaders in Service, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Education Honor Society, and First Year Leaders. David Espino '24, who led campus voter registration drives, said, “As a first generation Hispanic student and member of the EOP, I understand how important the midterm elections were—the outcomes will affect our program and funding. By voting, we make a difference, both on and off campus, and it allows us to contribute to our role as future leaders.”



BEST OF THE BEST

Readers of *NJBIZ* selected Centenary University’s Master of Business Administration as the state’s top MBA in the business publication’s 2022 Reader Rankings.

This year’s rankings recognized Centenary in three categories:

First Place

MBA Program

Top Three

College/university in New Jersey

Top Three

Accounting Degree Program



Poetry That Inspires

The Nora Roberts Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Centenary University to fund a lecture by American writer Mahogany L. Browne on Nov. 2. Held virtually, the event celebrated Browne's book, *Black Girl Magic*, a journey from girlhood to womanhood challenging the conditioning of society by crafting an anthem of strength and magic for all Black girls.

The first designated poet-in-residence at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Browne is executive director of JustMedia, a media literacy initiative that supports the groundwork of criminal justice leaders and community members. She is the author of works including *Chlorine Sky*, *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*, *Woke Baby*, and *Black Girl Magic*.

This year's grant to Centenary is a renewal of several previous awards from the foundation. Founded by best-selling author Nora Roberts, the organization supports literacy through the lens of children's programming, arts organizations, and humanitarian efforts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Centenary University marked Black History Month with a series of historical displays, events, and film screenings designed to celebrate Black history and culture, as well as encourage dialogue about important societal issues including racism and colorism. Displays on campus sponsored by the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and Taylor Memorial Library highlighted the rich contributions of Black art and literature, while several installments of the Dialogue & Deeds discussion series created a safe space for students, faculty, and staff to share their experiences and participate in civil discussions about relevant topics.





Animating Culture

Last spring, Centenary University business major **Natasha Bonilla '22** signed up for a film elective, looking to have a little fun during her last semester of college. Presented with an assignment to produce an original short film, Bonilla set out—with little experience—to create a video that evokes her Latina heritage. The result is *Spanglish As Experienced by a Native Speaker*, which won a Jury's Citation Award for Animation at the 48th New Jersey Young Filmmakers Festival held in Hoboken.

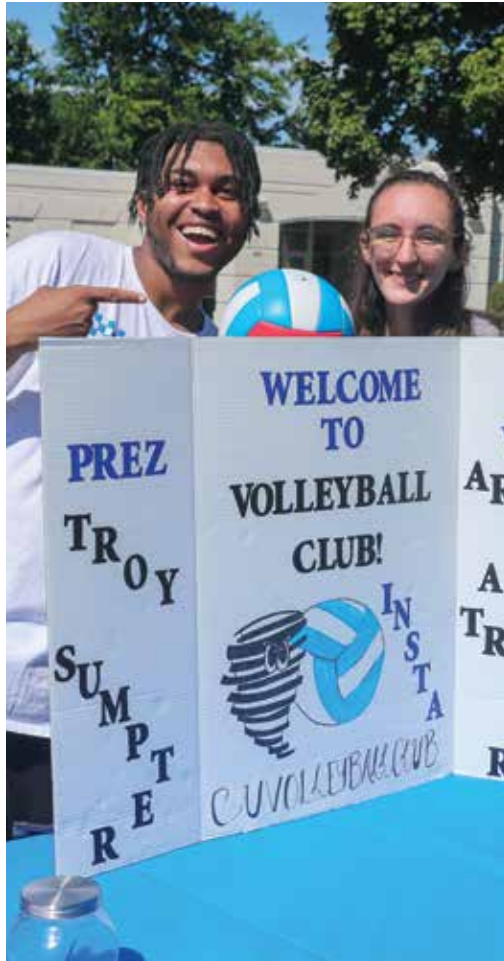
Bonilla's film borrows its title from a poem of the same name by John Olivares Espinoza, an acclaimed Latino poet and son of Mexican immigrants. Espinoza's poems resonate with Bonilla, who immigrated to the United States from Puerto Rico at age 16 with her mother. Assistant Professor of Communication Boris Gavrilovic mentored Bonilla on her film, recommending the use of cutouts that could be animated and encouraging her to submit the finished film to the festival.

While a Centenary University scholarship and financial aid covered her college tuition, Bonilla worked throughout her undergraduate years, taking as many shifts as possible to assist her mother with household expenses, while balancing her college assignments. The Dean's List student earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a minor in data analytics, and a concentration in finance from Centenary last May. Now, she's planning to pursue a career as a financial analyst. Reflecting on her Centenary career, she said, "Everyone at Centenary was so encouraging. My professors inspired me to become who I am."



Opening Days

Lots of Cyclone spirit marked the official opening of the 2022-2023 academic year. On Move-In Day, an energetic team of volunteers turned out to help first-year students move into the student residence halls. Later, Welcome Week activities hosted by Student Affairs encouraged students to reconnect and make new friends, while the annual Involvement Fair showcased the many extracurricular opportunities available at Centenary University.



Trend Watch: Residence Life



When students moved into Centenary University's residence halls to begin the fall semester, approximately 70

were current enrollees of Sussex County Community College (SCCC)—extending a partnership between the two educational institutions. Now in its second year, the agreement fills underutilized space in Centenary's residence halls, while allowing the community college students to experience life on a four-year campus.

The pact represents a broader trend in higher education among small colleges and universities forging partnerships, in everything from academics to student life, to enrich the college experience and create smoother pathways for associate degree recipients to enroll at four-year institutions to finish their bachelor's degrees, noted Kerry Mullins, vice president for student life and dean of students at Centenary University. Only 25 percent of community colleges across the nation offer student housing, according to a recent survey by the American Association of Community Colleges.

The residence life partnership is so distinctive that Centenary and SCCC officials were invited to deliver a presentation on its rollout at a conference sponsored by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Matthew Lavery Ed.D. '21, director of residence life at Centenary, noted that students from both institutions mingle well, with SCCC students attending extracurricular and sporting events at Centenary: "This has allowed Centenary University to become more diverse in the make-up of our student body. While there are benefits for the SCCC students to start a collegiate career and live on campus before they transfer, Centenary University students are learning from them, as well."



The Toll on Mental Health

Mikolaya Nynka, LPC, knows better than most that the mental health landscape has changed over the past few years. The director of the Centenary University Counseling Center notes that the pandemic and other widespread societal factors have triggered higher stress and anxiety in individuals of all ages.

In response, Nynka and her Counseling Center colleagues are providing Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training—an international program that teaches the skills to respond to signs of mental health and substance abuse challenges—to members of the University and Warren County communities. Topics covered in the training are depression and mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma, psychosis, suicide prevention, and self-care for the first aider. The series of free courses is funded through a \$9,574 grant from the Hackettstown Medical Center Community Advisory Board.

“We’ve seen that post-COVID, people have increased depression, anxiety, and substance use,” Nynka explained. “This course is more relevant than ever now because of the mental health toll of the pandemic, coupled with all of the other stresses happening in the world. One of our primary goals is to destigmatize mental health issues.”

Through the grant, Centenary has the potential to train up to 180 course participants. A priority has been to host MHFA training for Warren County organizations and businesses that employ a wide range of individuals, from teachers and police officers to healthcare workers, grocery store clerks, customer



service representatives, and other professions.

Nynka is organizing the courses with Narda Ludena, MA/Ed.S, LMFT, a licensed marriage and family therapist and certified MHFA instructor, and Annette Smith, NCC, LPC, LCADC, assistant director of the Centenary University Counseling Center. She said, “This course is appropriate for anyone interested in learning how to help a fellow human in need. Any one of us could be impacted by mental health challenges and it is important for the Centenary and broader Warren County communities to have the knowledge, skills, and awareness to help each other.”

Architect for Health

Centenary University has appointed Craig Fuller, Ph.D., as interim dean of the School of Natural, Health, Social & Behavioral Sciences. A highly-experienced scientist and faculty member, Dr. Fuller is the architect of the University’s ongoing expansion into academic programs focused on the health and wellness sectors, including medical laboratory science, public health, RN to BSN, and exercise science, which is now Centenary’s fastest growing program.

Before entering higher education, Dr. Fuller worked in hospitals and reference labs, as well as in the biomedical industry. He earned master’s and doctoral degrees in infectious diseases and microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees



in biology from Baylor University. Dr. Fuller was trained in medical technology by Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Texas and certified as a medical laboratory scientist through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

“Dr. Fuller’s extensive experience in both industry and higher education have proven invaluable to ensuring that Centenary’s new health and wellness programs maintain the University’s high academic standards and meet the needs of employers,” said David Dauwalder, Ph.D., interim vice president for academic

affairs. “He has also aggressively pursued partnerships with area healthcare institutions to enrich clinical experiences for Centenary students and employment outcomes for our graduates.”

Centenary Represents



The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) tapped the expertise of two Centenary University administrators, who were invited to serve as presenters at the organization's annual conference, Empowering Higher Education. The event was held Dec. 7 to 9 in Philadelphia.

Viktoria Popova, the University's director of institutional research and assessment, led a session called "The Right Amount of Complexity: Managing Inherent Complexities of the Self-Study Process." Her presentation focused on Centenary's

customized project management tool designed to manage the University's self-study process, encourage collaboration across teams and standards, and address the complexities of aligning with MSCHE standards.

In addition, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Kerry Mullins was a co-presenter for the session "Mutually Beneficial Inter-Sector Collaboration to Improve Access & Success," highlighting Centenary's unique residential housing partnership with Sussex County Community College. Now in its second year, the housing agreement has strengthened collaboration between the two educational institutions and created new educational opportunities for students.

Force for Service

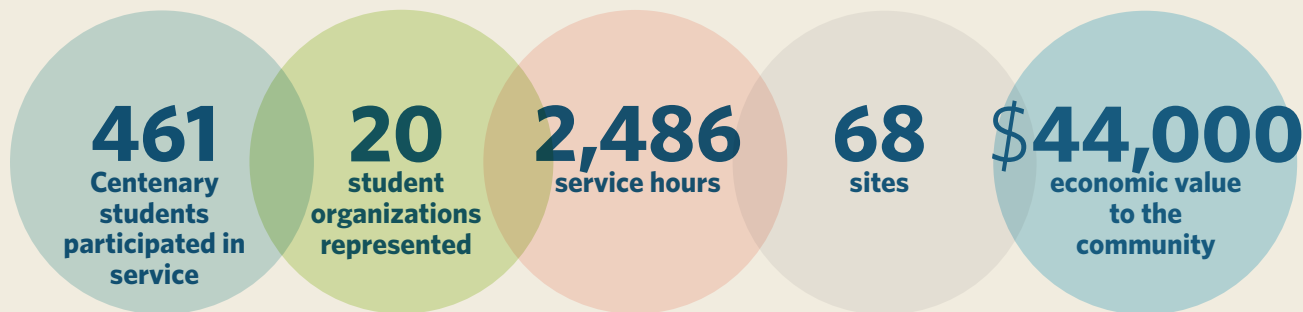


As community engagement coordinator at Centenary University, Kathleen Greco has connected hundreds of Centenary University students with opportunities to serve the local community.

Last year, service initiatives ranged from delivering food and toiletries to the homeless in New York City through Midnight Run, to serving local organizations like Hackettstown's First Presbyterian Church and holding community cleanups. Greco works with a host of student organizations, as well as Student Life and academic departments, to provide a wide range of opportunities for students to stretch their comfort zones and broaden their horizons.

While service projects enable students to assist those in need and support the University's mission, they also generate important economic benefits for the Skylands Region. "Our goal is to create meaningful change and help to make our community—and the world—a better place," Greco said.

In the 2021-2022 academic year:

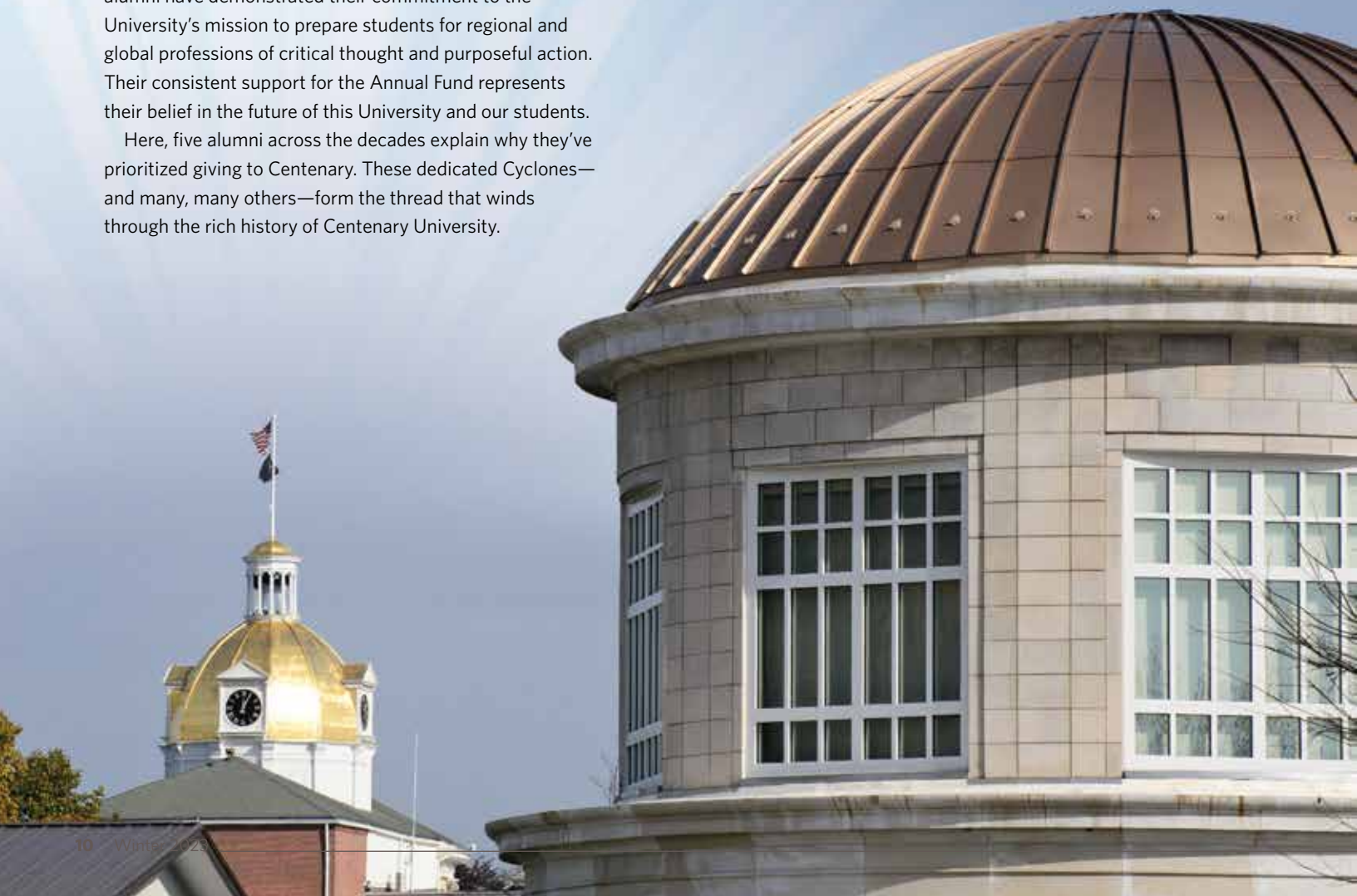


DECADES OF DONORS

More than 75 years separate the Centenary University experiences of our oldest donors and the Class of 2025, who are just starting out. During that time much has changed, on campus and around the world. Yet, one thing remains constant: The loyalty of our graduates.

Through the decades and across generations, Centenary alumni have demonstrated their commitment to the University's mission to prepare students for regional and global professions of critical thought and purposeful action. Their consistent support for the Annual Fund represents their belief in the future of this University and our students.

Here, five alumni across the decades explain why they've prioritized giving to Centenary. These dedicated Cyclones—and many, many others—form the thread that winds through the rich history of Centenary University.



Kathleen Coakley Koch '67

Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts
Secretary of the Lakehurst Foundation

"My experience at Centenary was a fulfilling two years, discovering new ideas and gaining the background for my career. Through the years, I have supported Centenary to give that opportunity to promising students who could not afford higher education. The academic, sports, and study abroad programs offered today are impressive, and I enjoy learning of the accomplishments of current graduates and their contributions to society. I am very proud to be part of that history of Centenary."



Erica Hontz Hoffman '83

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in Equine Studies
Business Systems Analyst at WellSpan Health

"Centenary's emphasis on the liberal arts taught me how to learn beyond rote memorization and to think outside the box. That approach has been integral to my career success. Now, as chair of the President's Council and Alumni Association Executive Board, I have witnessed Centenary's continuing growth and resilience. The adjustment of academic programs to the current market demonstrates the University's awareness of the educational needs of our community."



Angela Rodriguez Moore '90

Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising
Consultant
Mary Kay Inc.

"Centenary University helped me to launch a successful career in the fashion and beauty industry. Now, as a member of both the Alumni Association Executive Board and the President's Advisory Council, I support the University to pay it forward and open doors of opportunity for students today who want to attend Centenary. Through my professional affiliations and work in the community, I have also invited potential students to campus. I'm excited about the future of Centenary."



Shew-Mei Chen '13

Master of Business Administration
Coordinator of Academic Operations
County College of Morris

"Working in higher education, I know that things became very challenging for colleges and universities after Covid-19. I support Centenary University because I had a great experience there. At Centenary, I liked the small class sizes, and the faculty were very nice and supported the students. Everyone who worked in the offices was also very friendly and provided very good service. Going forward, I will continue to support Centenary University."



Daniel J. Mattie '21

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Marketing Generalist
Corporate Essentials

"I support Centenary because it's a smaller college that really focuses on the individual, rather just than on the collective. Faculty and administrators helped me to see that I could excel in graphic design and social media marketing. Looking ahead, the University has introduced new programs to prepare students for 21st century careers, like nursing and computer science, and also offers the same level of scholarships you'd find at bigger schools. All of that makes me proud as a Centenary graduate."



Remembering Jeanne Murphy



Centenary University First Lady Jeanne Picariello Murphy of Hackettstown, N.J., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, of injuries suffered as the victim of a hit-and-run accident a day earlier while on her morning walk near home. She was 70.

A retired U.S. Army colonel and the wife of Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., Mrs. Murphy was a native of Saint Louis, Mo. She was devoted to her family and an advocate for Centenary University and its students, as well as veterans. She also took great joy in her dog, Weege, who was adopted by the Murphys last year.

During her 30-year career in the military, she served with distinction in many leadership roles in posts spanning the United States and abroad, including Europe, Latin America, South Korea, and the Middle East. Colonel Murphy served as chief of health promotion for the U.S. Southern Command in Panama and spear-headed Army health, wellness, and support programs in Germany, Virginia, in the Pentagon, and at the Army War College. During and after the Gulf War, she worked with combat troops in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. She later worked with the American Red Cross in Gulfport, Miss., during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Before retiring from the military in 2001, Colonel

Murphy was given oversight of the military's program for world-class athletes, a task that placed her on the U.S. Olympic Committee's Board of Directors and as chair of the USOC Multi-Sport Organizations Council for 10 years. For the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, she was designated Chef de Mission for the U.S. Paralympic Team. A former competitive runner and swimmer, Mrs. Murphy was the first woman ever selected to the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Team in 1975, competing for the team until 1978.

Serving as the First Lady of Centenary University for the past three years, Mrs. Murphy was an enthusiastic supporter of Centenary's academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs. She held a special place in her heart for the University's Equine Studies program, especially TRAC (Therapeutic Riding At Centenary), which provides horsemanship opportunities for disabled riders and veterans. Her experience as an Army nurse and knowledge of the field helped to inform the University's new RN to BSN degree.

Mrs. Murphy was extremely active in the local Hackettstown community, including as a member of the Hackettstown Business Improvement District (BID) and the Women's Club of New Jersey. She was dedicated to improving the well-being of fellow veterans through advocacy and support for veteran's services at Centenary and in the broader community. Now, Mrs. Murphy is continuing her lifelong service of helping others by giving the gift of life as an organ donor.

A graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Mrs. Murphy earned a master's degree in cardiovascular nursing and exercise physiology from the University of Washington.

Mrs. Murphy was predeceased by her parents, Ciro and Theresa Picariello, and her brother, Paul Picariello. She leaves her beloved husband, Bruce Murphy; three brothers, David Picariello of San Francisco, Calif.; James Picariello of Rochester, N.Y., and his wife, Jean, and Gary Picariello of Brindisi, Italy, and his wife, Giulia; two nieces, Jasmin Picariello and her husband, Justin Fisk, of Washington, D.C.; and Lauren Picariello of Rochester, N.Y.; a nephew, Jonathan Picariello, who is serving with the U.S. Air Force at Hurlburt Field in Florida; a step-daughter, Alondra Howard, and her daughter, Ashley Carnahan, and her grandson, Oshyn Blu, of Winona, Texas; and a brother-in-law, Captain Dennis Murphy (US Navy, Ret.), and his wife, Laura, of Hendersonville, N.C.

Remembering Jeanne Murphy





A Legacy Lives on

Jeanne Murphy spent her life serving others as a nurse, US Army colonel, member of the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and first lady of Centenary University. Even after her passing, Mrs. Murphy's dedication to helping others lives on in her gift of life as an organ donor.

Now, you can ensure that Mrs. Murphy's legacy continues through a contribution in her memory. Please consider a gift to one of the following nonprofits that she held dear:

- [The Centenary Students Emergency Fund](#)
- [The TRAC \(Therapeutic Riding At Centenary\) program](#)
- [The Wounded Warrior Project](#)
- [The U.S. Paralympic Team through the Team USA Fund](#)
- [The Sigma Foundation for Nursing through Sigma Tau Theta](#)



Newest Cyclones: Women's Wrestling

Centenary University will add women's wrestling as an intercollegiate sport beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, bringing the total number of NCAA DIII sports offered by the University to 14, including seven women's teams. Recruitment is underway for a women's team coach and the first roster of wrestlers, according to Associate Athletic Director Rose Haller. "Centenary has a long and proud national reputation for men's wrestling, producing many national qualifiers and All-Americans," said Haller. "We anticipate that the University's new women's program will follow in that tradition."

Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., added, "Women's wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States. Centenary's new women's wrestling team aligns with the objectives of our strategic plan to grow the University, while providing academic and extracurricular opportunities that enrich the experience for a more diverse group of students."

An Olympic sport for nearly two decades, women's wrestling has charted explosive growth. The

National Wrestling Coaches Association estimates that more than 28,000 high school women wrestled in 2021, compared with just 804 in 1994—an increase of more than 3,300 percent. Recognized as an emerging NCAA sport in 2020 for all three collegiate divisions, women's wrestling is sanctioned for high school competition in 36 states, including New Jersey. Centenary's program will be

"Women's wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States."

one of two NCAA collegiate programs in the state, although several other colleges and universities offer the sport on the club level or allow women to compete on men's teams.

Vice President for Enrollment Management Robert L. Miller, Ph.D., explained that the new team broadens Centenary's recruitment pool of prospective students. "We're excited to add women's wrestling to our roster of DIII sports," Dr. Miller said. "We're seeing strong interest from high school athletes in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, as well as other areas of the country."





Triple Double

Cyclone opponents are seeing double—times three—this season when they take on the Centenary women's basketball team. This year's squad includes three sets of twins, a rarity among college athletic teams. Multiples on the team are **Kaylie and Tanya Elsbree '25** of Freehold Township, NJ, **Jasmine and Kayla Sampong '26** of Pompton Lakes, NJ, and **Sofia and Viviana Mendez '26** of Weehawken, NJ. The Cyclones opened their season on Nov. 9, with Atlantic East Conference play beginning in January. Visit the Reeves Student Recreation Center to cheer them on!

Let us know what's new!

Send us your news and keep up to date with classmates: alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu. Class News and Notes are edited to reflect Centenary's guidelines.

1949

Florence Austermuhl Larson
Alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Florence Austermuhl Larson writes: "I had surgery in October to replace my aortic valve. I am doing well and am back to walking. I had Thanksgiving with my family and some church friends. My two great-grandsons, both 2, are fun to be with and growing so fast.

"I called **Carol Brown Robinson** and she said she walks every day. She goes out with her daughter a lot. In her retirement home, she has meals with the others. She doesn't like games, but enjoys Saturday night movies on TV.

"**Betty Popple Barrett** had complications with an infected gall bladder over the summer and was in and out of the hospital for three months until the doctors agreed to surgery in September. She was very fortunate that the doctor was able to perform complete removal. Her daughter stayed with her while she recuperated at home. Her good news is that a new great-grandson was born in August. She now has three great-grandsons and they keep the family entertained."

Margaret Pfeiffer McCann writes: "At 93 years old, there is very little news from me—no traveling now. I do get about and if I want to move quickly, I use a wheelchair. I am now a great-

grandmother—at 1, little Willow is adorable. My husband and I used to have a winter home in Naples, Fla. It was badly damaged by Hurricane Ian."

1961

Joyce Fierro Velzy
Alumni @centenaryuniversity.edu

Joyce Fierro Velzy writes: "As the 1961 class correspondent, I'm always happy to receive news from our classmates when it's time for *The Centenarian*.

Sally Swan Schwabe also enjoys hearing from those who respond and report. She recently wrote, 'I appreciate the communication with **Jan Auer Scrabis** and **Sally Murphy Albano**. I miss seeing the Hilton Head gals, **Missy Westmaas Bell** and **Judy Van Wetering Whitmore**, who have been such thoughtful hostesses. I hope to return at some point. Willow Valley Communities here in Lancaster, Penn., keeps us busy, active, and happy. It is a continuing care community with independent living for people like Bob and me, as well as supportive and memory care. It's a very warm, friendly place. It's also large, which we like for events, programs, and activities that are offered.'

"**Debbie Sisbower Lingwood** is thankful that her family is well and healthy. Her husband, Elden, is completely recovered from his hip replacement that was done last August. She writes: 'We moved from our home on the lake in Maine

to our southern home down here in Massachusetts. They had snow in Maine the next day and a dusting also here in Massachusetts upon our arrival. We looked forward to celebrating the holidays in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We have two grandchildren who are married with children, five grandchildren in college, and one who is a sophomore in high school. Our older daughter, Lauren, is a successful realtor and our younger daughter, Kirsten, is an orthodontist in Rhode Island. Elden and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary next November. Time flies, as I still feel like I'm only in my 40s and not in my 80s. We are both active and enjoy hiking together. Elden enjoys golfing and I enjoy kayaking in the summers on our lake in Maine.'

"In October, **Molly Power Balzer** and her husband, George, flew down to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and met up with friends from Victoria, British Columbia; Cary, N.C.; Eugene, Ore.; and Denver, Col. Molly writes: 'It was hot and humid, but we all had a great time. The day after we returned, I came down with a cold. Two weeks later, I was feeling better, even though I couldn't smell, taste, or hear. COVID-19 tests determined all was negative. My happy news: I became a great-grandmother to a baby girl at the end of December! Unfortunately, I had to miss the fun baby shower.'

"Another classmate made the big move into a new community. **Sue Fippen Scattergood** writes: 'My news is that Ron and I made a very sudden decision in October to move to a senior living facility. Ron has dementia, so I was tired of taking care of our home and life. With the help of our daughter, we decided to check out the facilities near us. The

first place we looked had the perfect apartment available for occupancy, so we grabbed it, fearing if we continued our search we would lose it. We put our house on the market and it sold above price in a day, so here we are a few weeks later in our new home. It actually is beginning to feel like home, too. We plan to spend a little time at our beach house. It has been several months since we've been there, so I'm eager to get there and completely relax.'

"**JoAnn McVey O'Brian** and her husband, Bill, live in Fort Myers, Fla. Thankfully, they were inland in Southern Fort Myers during Hurricane Ian and, JoAnn reports, '...only lost two screens, but it was awful.' She and her Centenary roommate, **Elaine Whitman Cannedy**, are in touch with each other and all are doing fine."

Jan "Mouse" Mittell Kinasewich writes: "I was fortunate to be able to go on a river cruise down the Danube in September. We went through Slavic countries such as Croatia, Serbia, and Bulgaria, and ended up in Romania. It was so interesting to be transported into another part of the world, where they are close to Ukraine and Russia, live in countries with authoritarian governments, and speak a version of the Slavic language. Unfortunately, many of the people live in poverty. However, they manage and adapt, and are lovely people. I have been in touch with **Susan Jones Kiedio**, who traveled last summer with her family on a couple of trips. I also had a good talk recently with **Mary McDonough**, who has moved to Chicago to be near her girls. She sounds great!"

Sandy Holroyd Carboni writes: "Harry and I have been blessed with seven wonderful grandchildren, who range in



Angela Randle '16

Dream Job

For **Angela Randle '16**, meeting Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors is all in a day's work. An associate producer at ESPN, Randle attends live sporting events and produces stories for the sports network, curating content for

millions of viewers. She recently met the two NBA greats while covering the ESPYs, presented by ABC network and ESPN to recognize athletic achievement.

As a youngster, Randle loved basketball and dreamed of having a career in broadcast media. While attending Centenary University, she majored in communication: television and radio. After earning her degree, Randle worked on content for the NBA

and in the production room at CBS Sports before taking the job with ESPN.

In a recent interview with *Hackettstown Life*, Randle told reporter Jillian Risberg that there were few female role models in sports broadcasting while she was growing up: "So in my free time I continue to be an advocate for women in sports and always give back/speak to anyone who's interested...any woman who contributes to sports and gives back will forever and always be an inspiration to me."

Today, Randle is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and Black Girls in Media. She is also CEO and founder of her own platform, hosting, directing, producing, and editing a show called *Off the Bench*. Randle is grateful to Centenary for helping to launch her career. She told Risberg, "There are a lot of proud alumni like myself who would love to give back to the next generation."

age from 17 to 29. One of our grandsons graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy in June, and we have a granddaughter in medical school pursuing her goal of becoming an osteopathic doctor. Two grandchildren moved to Austin, Texas, in May."

Marian Morse Glendinning Kindler writes: "There is a saying that if you appreciate the small things in life, then your life will be full. This, we have found to be so true. As we slow down in our senior years with less traveling, we have found that keeping in contact through the tech world with our children and grandchildren has been wonderful. Never thought I would feel that way.

"We have a grandchild, Carly Glendinning, who is a freshman at the University of Cincinnati and playing volleyball for them. She had a remarkable season, and though her team was not on the top of the winners list, she has found wonderful friendships with her teammates. As a Baylor coach once said, 'We may have lost on the court, but we won in life.' Jim and I can be found every Friday evening and Sunday afternoon watching the Bearcats on ESPN+. I always wanted a big family when I married Jim in 2001. We now have eight kids, all married; 17 grandchildren, with three married; and one great-grandchild. I think that, at the moment, is the final count. The phone calls and FaceTime calls always bring a smile when they update us on their happenings. I could go on with news about all the other grandkids, but this would be far too lengthy. Maybe my next entry will headline one of our other dear ones. Each one has a special place in my heart. We are blessed!

"Of course, as the years go on, we seem to have to have more senior maintenance to keep our bodies on the move. At least we are still moving and thankful for each day to share with family and friends. To my dear Centenary friends, I enjoy reading about you. Take care, and special thanks to **Joyce Fierro Velzy** for keeping us in touch all these years!"

Suzie Stevens Hamblett writes: "Sixty-two years ago, I left Centenary to marry my husband. We are busy with all our family—four married children and 13 grandchildren. We live in Portsmouth, N.H., and spend our summers in Boothbay, Maine. I have become a flower design judge and love that involvement and the places it takes me. We spend countless hours following the sporting activities of our grandchildren. I have contact with **Barbie Day Sample, Marilyn Parsons Wortman, Kristen Ostergaard Krider, and Jane Whidden**. Every now and then, I hear a song from the 50s and I'm back in the Grill and lounge again. Such good memories!"

1963

Ellen Fiencke Whitaker

Alumni @centenaryuniversity.edu

Ellen Fiencke Whitaker writes:

"Our very own **Faith Hyndman** was honored as a distinguished alumna at Centenary's Alumni Association Annual Meeting, held during Centenary's Alumni and Family Day on Oct. 15. Faith has more news. She writes: 'I was born and raised in Huntington Valley, Penn., and remained in Pennsylvania for the rest of my life. Our family was transferred briefly for a two-year stay in Lynchburg, Va., and then returned to Bucks County, where I presently live. I loved animals right from the start and had horses and dogs throughout my childhood.

'My dad was a successful amateur golfer, and when time allowed, our family traveled with him all over the United States to the U.S. Open, the Masters, and many amateur golf tournaments. I met many famous golfers at the time, including Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Arnold Palmer, and Sam Snead, but had no idea they were famous. To me, they were my dad's friends.

'While at Centenary, I roomed in Washabaugh Hall and was a member of the riding and psychology clubs, played golf regularly, and enjoyed sorority life. Back then, riding was an extracurricular athletic activity out of a local stable—not the equine studies degree it is today. It was a major reason I enrolled at Centenary. I still remember the beautiful white tablecloths in the dining room, the smell of leather and hay at the local stable, the cute town of Hackettstown, seeing Peter, Paul, and Mary in concert at Centenary, our white blazers, and the Seay Building with the beautiful clock dome.

'Upon graduation from Centenary, I landed my first job as an assistant public relations and fashion director at John Wanamaker Department Store in the Philadelphia area. I loved creating ad designs and pulling clothing from various departments, looking for the next fashion craze for fashion shows. When Wanamaker opened a new branch store at the King of Prussia Mall in the suburbs, I was offered a top managerial position, but turned it down, as it would have been more of a commitment than I wanted to make at that time. I then went to work at my family's insurance agency, where I was able to take off one summer to work in Bermuda and another summer in Puerto Rico.

'Five years after graduation, I married and had two children, John and Virginia. Thankfully, they live nearby, and although they are busy



Welcome Home!

Alumni members of Enactus, the Centenary University competitive business team, returned to campus for a reunion hosted by Linda Poisseroux, Ph.D., assistant professor of business and director of Enactus. The group was greeted by Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., and his wife, the late Jeanne Murphy. Attending were **Brittany Bradley '20/21, Darrian Steward '18, James Wilder '21, Andrew Rodriguez '18, Ben Poisseroux '19, Darnel Burnette '22, Gianna Morano '22,** and current MBA student **Jared Miller '22**. In addition, **Colin Hudson '19** joined the reunion from Colorado via Zoom.

with their careers and family, I have a chance to see them often. I have four grandchildren: Twins Oliver and Sebastian, as well as Matthew and Peter. Oliver works in New York City in the film industry, and Sebastian is working on his master's degree in architecture while employed in that field in Boston. Matthew is a senior in high school and Peter is in eighth grade.

'My interest in Labrador retrievers had quite an unusual and unexpected beginning. I was at a local flea market and saw a couple walking a most beautiful dog. I didn't know what kind it was at the time, but I knew I had to have one. It was a Lab, and I bought my first Lab about 45 years ago, a purchase I have never regretted. I began studying the breed's history, anatomy, structure, temperament, breeding, training, conformation, and competition. I enrolled in the program in judging Labs offered by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and became licensed to judge the breed in 2016.

'I am still raising and training Labs and seriously competing in conformation shows, as well as a small amount of breeding. My dogs have competed at the famed Westminster Dog Show in Madison Square Garden in New York, the National Dog Show in



Faith Hyndman '63 and first place winner, Charm



Philadelphia, and the AKC National Championship Dog Show in Florida. 'My publications have appeared in the *AKC Gazette*, *Great Britain's Labrador Newsletter*, and *The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Yearbook* from 1994 to 2004. I have served on the board of

Home Court Advantage



Kane Fitzgerald '04 ejecting LeBron James from a game

videos and interpreting the rules of the game for officials, teams, broadcasters, and media.

A business administration major at Centenary University, Fitzgerald played on the Cyclones men's basketball team. He began officiating at high school games, eventually moving up to college, the WNBA, and the NBA. He gave LeBron James his first career ejection in 2017.

In 13 seasons, Fitzgerald officiated 779 NBA regular-season games and 69 playoff games, including four NBA Finals games. Most recently, he worked a match-up in the 2022 NBA Finals between the Boston Celtics and Golden State Warriors. He was also one of the referees for the 2022 NBA All-Star Game. In 2019—the year he was chosen as one of 12 officials for the NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and Toronto Raptors—he told *USA TODAY Network New Jersey*, "Any referee worth his salt wants to referee in the NBA Finals. To be selected this year is a huge honor. It's very humbling."

In September, he came off the court to take on his new position with the NBA: "While I will miss officiating games, I look forward to this new challenge of supporting and further advancing the Referee Operations group."

Top performing NBA referee **Kane Fitzgerald '04** has been appointed vice president of referee operations and replay center principal for the league. Fitzgerald will be responsible for day-to-day operations of the NBA Replay Center, as well as creating referee training

the Labrador Retriever Club, was a founding member of the Keystone Labrador Retriever Club, and am still a member of the Dallas Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Club, the Waterland Retriever Club, and the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac."

1979

Susan VanSchelven Fischer

Alumni @centenaryuniversity.edu

Nancy Paffendorf '79/81/06 writes:

"It was great to see familiar faces at Alumni and Family Day in October. The day was spectacular. The weather was perfect, and it was great to be together again with Centenary alumni and friends on the beautiful Centenary campus. My husband, **Maj. George W. Paffendorf '07 HA**, and I have enjoyed being able to get together with others and do some traveling again this year. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary (we were married in the Centenary Chapel) in June on Mackinac Island in Michigan, a gift from our children. We also traveled to Florida, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Saint Louis, where we attended the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Intl. National Conference. George is the Region 2 representative for PATH Intl. and we have made many friends among the members. This was my first time traveling to Saint Louis, and I enjoyed going up in the Arch and seeing the city. Stay safe and healthy!"

1983

Daria Uhlig is a personal finance, real estate, and travel writer and editor with over 25 years of editorial experience. She recently published an article, "8 Unexpected Retirement Costs to Plan For," on the personal finance website, GoBankingRates.

1998

Mona F. Ressaissi, Esq., delivered an address on 50 years of Title IX at a Cyclone women's basketball halftime celebration on Dec. 10. The landmark law expanded opportunities for female athletes to participate in sports and earn scholarships at the high school and college levels. A standout Cyclones basketball player and Hall of Fame inductee, Ressaissi is an attorney with Margolin & Neuner in Hackettstown. She was also recognized by the New Jersey Courts for providing *pro bono* legal services to people in need.



Mona Ressaissi '98 and her husband, Devon Vialva

2009

Luke Krueger, husband of **Christina (Agosto) Krueger**, writes: "My wife, Chris, was elected president of the Progressive Hoof Care Practitioners, a body composed of members from around the world that certifies equine practitioners and mentors, and promotes barefoot hoof care (ie, no metal shoes). This was recently announced at the organization's conference in Denver. At Centenary University, Chris majored in equine studies. She is the owner/proprietor of From Hoof to Heart and is a certified practitioner and mentor for barefoot hoof care of equines. We reside in Manchester Center, Vt., and she has clients all over central and southern Vermont, as well as eastern New York. She manages to do this while balancing

Welcome to our new AAEB Members

Centenary University welcomes five new members to the Alumni Association Executive Board:

Sarah DeGeorge '15

Faith Hyndman '63

Tom Kazinci '93/94

Bill McNier '14

Kathy Notillo Nolan '98/02

Yolanda Sheffield Williams '06
President

Bryan Watkinson '07
First Vice President

Kyle Malavasi '14
Second Vice President

Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06
Recording Secretary and Alumni Trustee

Vita Romanelli-Young '78/80
Corresponding Secretary

Brooke Smith Westenberger '13
Treasurer

Carol Vallentine Allen '72
Immediate Past President

Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks '04/06
Past President

Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Nominating Committee Chair

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Sarah DeGeorge '15

Angie Desai '07

Faith Hyndman '63

Tom Kazinci '93/94

Sandile C. Manzini '11

Bill McNier '14

Kathy Notillo Nolan '98/02

Devon Paffendorf '10/11

Angela Rodriguez Moore '90/22HA

Virginia George Hook '44*
Emerita

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jenna Glinko '23

Onoshope N. Itunoya-Musa '24

*deceased

Six Named to Board of Trustees

Centenary University has named six new members to its Board of Trustees, the governing body of the University. In announcing the appointments, Board Chair **Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97** said: "Centenary University is in the midst of an expansion into a number of educational sectors, including healthcare, that will be critical to the economy moving forward. I am grateful that we can rely on these professionals to help guide the next era in the University's history." The new board members are:



Carol Allen '72/74, who has held a number of administrative roles at Centenary University, including director of special giving, director of residential life and student life, and associate and assistant dean of students, as well as at several educational and commercial businesses. She has also served as president of the Centenary University Alumni Association Executive Board.



Cathleen Compoli, the founder of CEA Executive Advisory, providing management consulting and professional coaching to corporations, advanced technology start-ups, and individuals. An accomplished sales and marketing executive, she served as a senior leader at Mars Incorporated for over 30 years.



Felix "Phil" Linfante, Ph.D., a licensed therapist and professor of social sciences at Essex County Community College, where he served for 35 years in the college's administration. Dr. Linfante previously chaired the Warren County Community College Board of Trustees and the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.



Denise McDonald Littleton, Ed.D., an educator with more than 40 years of experience and the retired dean of the School of Education at Norfolk State University. In that role, she successfully led the university through the national accreditation process and was also a professor in the Department of Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education.



Timothy L. Smith, the founder and CEO of APW Capital, a national leader in providing broker-dealer services to financial advisors who market under their own RIA (registered investment advisor). A respected member of the financial services sector, Smith also founded Comprehensive Capital Management, Inc., and Aurora Private Wealth, Inc.

Centenary University Board of Trustees

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Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97
Chair

Michael T. Catapano '92
First Vice Chair

David Dallas
Second Vice Chair

Audrey Bonaparte-Watts '78
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Phil Linfante, Ph.D.

Denise Littleton, Ed.D.

Muriel Millman

A. Lynn Moran, MBA, ACC '88

Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06
Alumni Representative

Darlene Panzitta

Esther A. Poulsen

Sunita A. Pradhan

Wendy E. Ross, D.V.M.

M. Alden Siegel '14 HA

Timothy L. Smith

Vicki S. Sylvain

Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62

Dr. Edward J. Yaw

Jill Kracov Zinckgraf, Ed.D.

Trustees Emeritus

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President's Advisory Council (PAC)

Erica Hontz Hoffman '83

Chair

Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78

Vice Chair

Diane Bartone-Sarro '86

Nancy Keely Bell '61

Claire Couch Bosee '54

Brenda Bailey Carter '60

Dr. Christine Siciliano Floether '87

Rochelle Makela Goodman '97

Millie Hahn '03

Maria Novotna Maier '06

Linda Dey McDonald '62

Gail Blank Dawson McNally '57

Roberta Fiske Mildenerger '67

Angela Rodriguez Moore '90

A. Lynn Moran '88

Susan Gordon Posner '58

Joanne Risko '97

Suzanne Wallbank Rowland '57

Doll Spach Siegel '59

Janet Kipp Tribus '62

Kathleen Lascky Turner '70

Gail Bergenback Vigra '57*

Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62

*deceased



Alumni and Family Day 2022



being a mother to two daughters, ages 6 and 2. Thank you for indulging a husband's humble pride in his partner."

2007

Felician University has named **Marilu Marcillo, D.M.**, the dean of the School of Business and Information Sciences. She holds an MBA from Centenary University.

2015

Sarah DeGeorge continues to expand her digital marketing business by helping small to mid-sized businesses scale with ease for increased customer conversions and decreased overwhelm in their business growth. Her client roster includes nonprofits, authors, online publications, digital media businesses, and wellness clients, among many other industries. Beyond her work, DeGeorge also continues to share her knowledge with colleges and universities in their digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and communication departments as a guest lecturer. She notably has spoken at Centenary University multiple times, as well as many other universities across the United States.

2016

66degrees, a Google Cloud Premier Partner, has hired **Mary Beth Rogalsky** as its vice president of marketing. In her new role, Rogalsky is responsible for overseeing marketing strategies, bringing together creativity, analytics, and business acumen to deliver and exceed business goals. She earned an MBA with a concentration in management from Centenary University.



Mary Beth Rogalsky '16

2017

Robert Nicoletti has been appointed an officer with the Police Department in Caldwell, N.J. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Centenary University.

2018

Samantha Jones has been named to the Board of Trustees of JESPY House in South Orange, N.J. The nonprofit provides a wide range of support services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jones earned an MBA with a concentration in management from Centenary University.



Samantha Jones '18

2019

Lucile Vigouroux published an article, "Feeding Horses for Performance," on the website, *The Horse*, a guide to equine healthcare offering daily horse industry news and horse-related veterinary and behavior research.

Jack Reinhard was recently recognized with the Foundation Alumni Award at the Warren County Hall of Fame banquet. He is a news reporter with WFMZ-69 in Pennsylvania.



Jack Reinhard '19



Bright Lights, Big Season

Centenary University rang in the holidays with the illumination of the Edward W. Seay Administration Building on Dec. 2 as part of Hackettstown's Hometown Holiday celebration. The beautiful lighting was funded through a lead gift from the Somers family of Hackettstown. The annual Hometown Holiday event is sponsored by the Hackettstown Business Improvement District (BID) and supported by a host of area businesses and organizations, including Centenary.



The Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB) continued the holiday spirit by hosting a toy drive to benefit the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County (DASACC). From left, Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.; **Patricia Mahaffey '78**, coordinator of study abroad and international student admissions counselor; **Carol Allen '72/74**, AAEB immediate past president and Centenary University trustee; Jill Zinckgraf, Ed.D., DASACC executive director and Centenary University trustee; **Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06**, AAEB recording secretary and Centenary University alumni trustee; **Maj. George W. Paffendorf '07 HA**; **Angie Desai '07**, AAEB member; and Onoshope N. Itunoya-Musa '24, AAEB student representative. A big thank you to the Centenary community for your generosity.

2021

Public Health: A National Perspective

Health and safety took centerstage on Oct. 18 at this fall's Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecture. Prominent physician **Aakash Shah, MD '21 HA** presented "Reimagining Public Health and Safety," sharing his perspective as a physician, an advocate,

and—most recently—a White House Fellow to discuss new programs at the intersection of public health and public safety. Prior to the lecture, Dr. Shah met with small groups of Centenary University students.





Jennifer Lackland, center, with her parents, David and Carol Burgess Lackland '54.

Jennifer Lackland

Community leader Jennifer Lackland, whose family has left a lasting legacy at Centenary University, passed away suddenly on Aug. 9. She was 53.

Ms. Lackland was the daughter of the late **Carol Burgess Lackland '54** and former Centenary trustee David Lackland, lead donors of The David and Carol Lackland Center. Dedicated in 2010, the 68,000-square-foot

Lackland Center is a showpiece of the University's campus, housing the 485-seat Sitnik Theater, the black box Edith Bolte Kutz '42 Theater,

a 400-seat dining hall, a 55-seat café, a dance studio, and classrooms, offices, meeting spaces, and lounges. In recent years, Ms. Lackland was instrumental in the David & Carol Lackland Family Foundation, which provides support to numerous charitable endeavors near and dear to her family, including Centenary University.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Science in Humane Science and Services, Ms. Lackland spent several years working as a teacher before taking over the running of her father's businesses when he could no longer do so. Several years ago, she fulfilled her lifelong dream of building Jens Links at LBI, a miniature golf course in Barnegat Light, NJ.



Gail Bergenback Vigra '57

Gail Bergenback Vigra '57 passed away peacefully on Jan. 3 in South Carolina with family. After her Centenary graduation, she pursued a career at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New

York City. Mrs. Vigra and her late husband, Charles, remained active in the community throughout their lives. She also maintained close ties to the Centenary community. A member of the University's President's Advisory Council, Mrs. Vigra represented the Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB) on the Board of Trustees for seven years and served as commencement speaker in 1993. A recipient of the University's Van Winkle Achievement Award in 2017, Mrs. Vigra also chaired the Class of 1957's 50th reunion. The family has requested that gifts in Mrs. Vigra's memory be made to Centenary University.



Virginia George Hook '44

Virginia George Hook '44 was dedicated to her family, her community, and Centenary University. She passed away peacefully on Dec. 23 in Lebanon, N.J. Following her graduation from Centenary, Mrs.

Hook raised two sons as a single mother while forging successful careers in teaching, real estate, and politics. The first woman elected to the town council in Delaware Township, she served as township mayor for two years and was the first woman to serve as president of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. She was also a member of many state and local boards and committees. At Centenary, Mrs. Hook was active in alumni activities for her entire life and an ardent supporter of the University.



Robert J. Search, Ed.D.

Centenary University mourns the passing of retired mathematics professor **Robert J. Search, Ed.D.**, on June 28. Dr. Search spent most of his professional career teaching at Centenary, where he was honored with an award for distinguished teaching. His published obituary noted that he was a sought-after professor whose classes

were always full: "He understood that not everyone could grasp math the way he could and worked very hard to bring all along. He loved B-movies and would often use them to teach and try to get the students to relate to the concepts he was trying to impart."

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Search earned a master's degree from the New York University Courant Institute of Mathematical Science and his doctorate in mathematics education from Rutgers University. He was also an avid runner, completing the Boston Marathon in 2:38.

In Memoriam

Constance Cunningham	
Bookbinder '57	9/25/22
Carl Burrell '86	3/2/22
William E. Caldwell, Ed.D.	8/15/22
Barbara Murry Demchyk '73	9/13/22
Mary Louise Hahn Eugley '43	4/9/22
Gretchen Darling Gedroiz '83	7/10/22
Virginia Stegmuller Jessup '52	4/23/22
Janell MacArthur '57	2/1/22
Gayle Sickinger Maffeo '61	9/9/22
Ann Watson Mangels '61	12/31/21
Joan Willey Niemitz '57	1/11/22
Barbara Weingard Spratt '62	1/22/22

MEET THE CENTENARIAN



NEVER SAY NEVER

Horses were a mainstay in the formative years of **Patricia Rocheny '22**. Growing up in Jersey City, NJ, she loved visiting her father at the Meadowlands Racetrack, where he worked as a security guard. After her father's death, when Rocheny was just 14, she found solace in riding and caring for horses. Soon, she began to think about a career in the equine field. Rocheny collected brochures about Centenary University's excellent equine studies program, but her mother nixed the idea.

Yet, Rocheny never forgot her dream. Two years ago, the newly-divorced mom of an adult daughter started mapping out the next phase of her life. "I wanted to go back to school," she explains. "My friends told me, 'You've been talking about this forever. It's now or never.'" So, she decided to enroll at Centenary, where she set aside her fears about being too old for college and explored a career in therapeutic riding.

Centenary's TRAC (Therapeutic Riding at Centenary) program is an

accredited adaptive riding program that provides equine-assisted services to individuals with disabilities, as well as military veterans and their families. In addition, the Equine Studies Department recently launched a new concentration in equine-assisted services. Recalling her introduction to therapeutic riding, Rocheny says, "I fell in love."

Since Rocheny is a strong writer, TRAC Director Karen Brittle also suggested that she consider grant writing for equine nonprofits; in fact, a grant written by Rocheny for a midterm assignment resulted in additional tuition funding for a TRAC participant. Rocheny adds, "Horses had been there for me when I lost my dad. TRAC showed me that I could finally have a career with horses."

Rocheny earned her Associate of Science in Equine Science from Centenary last May and at age 51, she has gained her first paid job in the field of therapeutic riding: "It's so rewarding to share special moments in the lives of the people I'm helping. I can't believe I'm part of something so special."

Save the Date



Scholarship Fundraising Event

JUNE 8, 2023

THE DAVID AND CAROL LACKLAND CENTER
CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

HONORING GOLD DOME AWARD RECIPIENTS

ROBERT WEINSTEIN, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
ROBERTET USA

BRUCE MURPHY, ED.D.
14TH PRESIDENT
CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

POSTHUMOUS:
JEANNE MURPHY
US ARMY COLONEL (RET.)
CENTENARY UNIVERSITY FIRST LADY