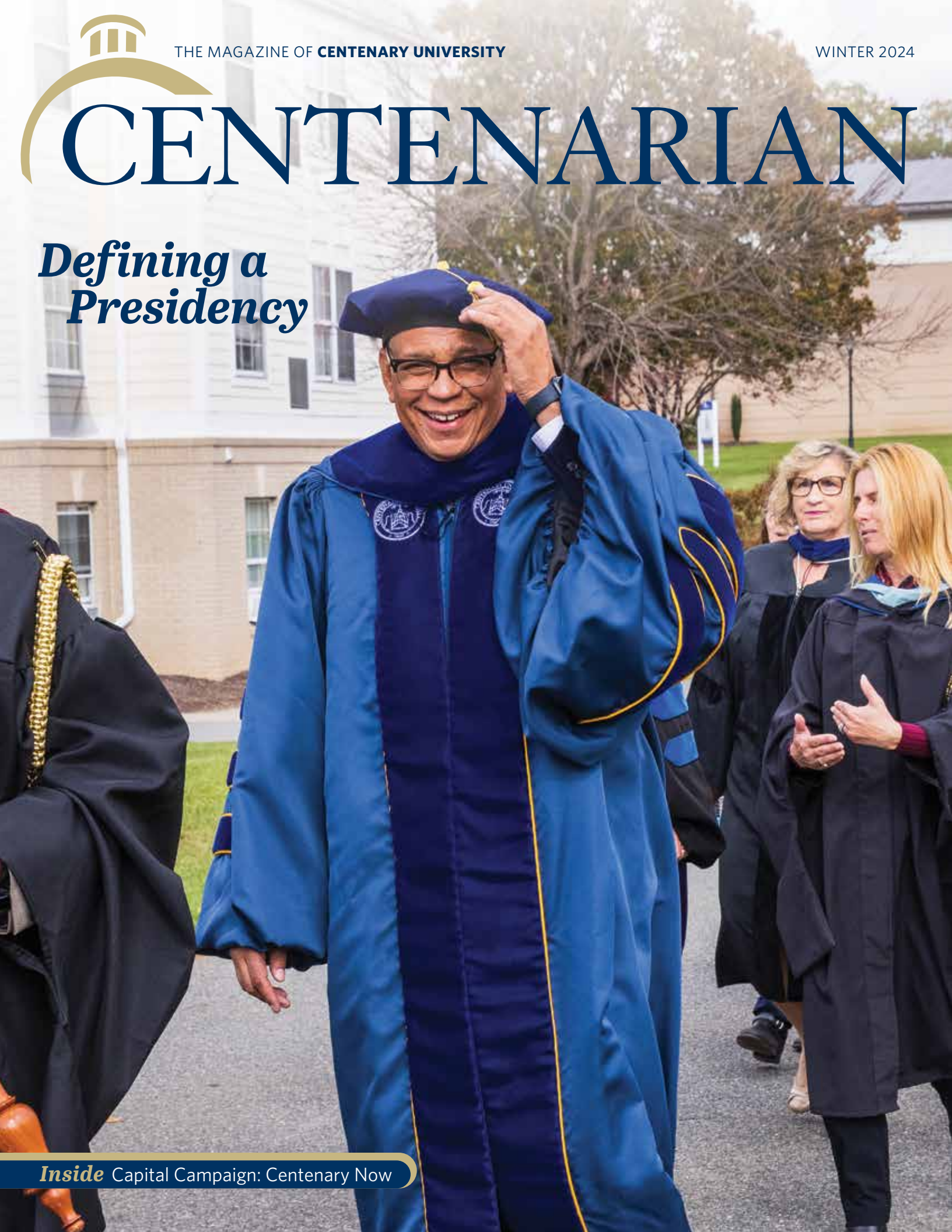




CENTENARIAN

*Defining a
Presidency*



Inside Capital Campaign: Centenary Now

Empowering Our Campus A new mural in the quad embraces the beauty of Centenary University's diverse student population. Called "Empowering Our People," it was designed as a welcoming and safe space for Educational Opportunity Program students. The project was fully funded through a grant from New Jersey's Educational Opportunity Fund Central Office.



Photo: Jenna O'Connor '16

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2. **University News**
- 6. **Defining a Presidency**
At his inauguration, Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., outlined the strategic priorities for his presidency.
- 10. **Centenary Now**
Introducing Centenary University's capital campaign
- 14. **Growing in Prominence**
- 16. **Athletics**
Riding to new heights
- 18. **Class News and Notes**

ON THE COVER

Dale Caldwell, Ed.D.
15th President of
Centenary University


HOW TO REACH US

Editorial Offices
Email:
jordan.glatt@centenaryuniversity.edu
jenna.oconnor@centenaryuniversity.edu
908-852-1400 ext. 2379


Editorial & Design Services
Erbach Communications Group


Photography

Eunice Boyd
Jenna Glinko '23
Morgan Hoover
Michael Marmora
Jenna O'Connor '16

 /centenaryuniversity

 @Centenary_NJ

 /school/centenary-university

 @centenaryuniversity



As the first six months of my presidency draw to a close, I'm truly grateful. A new energy infuses our beautiful campus, fueling academic, athletic, and institutional success and growing Centenary University's reputation for excellence on a national level. As you'll read in this issue, the University has gained accolades for our ranking in *US News & World Report* as a Top Performer in Social Mobility, our students won their second consecutive national Ballot Bowl competition, and our Master of Arts in Happiness Studies received coverage in leading news outlets, including National Public Radio and Harvard magazine.

All of these positive outcomes helped to make my inauguration day in October a wonderful event, filled with true Cyclone pride. The presence of family, friends, and so many Centenary University alumni demonstrated that I'm not walking this road alone. Together, we are building a future for this University that extends our brand far beyond the Skylands Region. Consider this: Our Master of Arts in Happiness Studies—the first of its kind in the world—enrolls more than 150 students from 15 countries, including South Africa and Vietnam, as well as nations across Europe and South America.

As always, tremendous outcomes are often accompanied by challenges. Today, American families

are experiencing financial pain, with higher numbers of students viewing a college education as cost prohibitive. Across the nation Centenary University and other smaller institutions still face financial stresses dating to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, contributions to nonprofits have declined, as potential donors deal with higher prices for daily essentials.

During lean years, larger universities can rely on wealthy donors and healthy endowments to meet financial challenges. Smaller institutions like Centenary don't have that luxury. Yet, I firmly believe that difficult times like these are exactly when Centenary should be ready to step up and help more students. Let's face it: Most first-gen students in New Jersey aren't turning to Ivy League institutions to meet the gap. Instead, they're looking to universities like Centenary to receive a high quality education at an affordable price.

To answer this need, I was proud to announce in my inaugural address a new \$8 million capital campaign called *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*. In this magazine, you will read about our campaign priorities to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships and tuition discounts to students who need it most, especially first-generation college students; establish innovative academic programs that meet the needs of nontraditional students; and invest in our local community to support local businesses and nonprofits. I'm happy to report that *Centenary Now* has already resonated with several lead donors, who contributed more than \$2.1 million during the silent phase of the campaign.

Now, it's time for all of us to step up to the plate. I ask you to read more about *Centenary Now* on pages 10-13, and then prayerfully consider a gift that makes sense for you and your family. I know that for many people, times are tough. Please know that all gifts, large and small, bring us closer to our goal—and make a world of difference to Centenary students.

Thank you for your support!

Dale Caldwell, Ed.D.
President

Stamping Out Hunger



Centenary University is joining forces with state education officials and other New Jersey colleges to support students who experience basic needs insecurity. Many people do not realize that students who live on campus can still struggle with a lack of proper and permanent food and housing, as well as mental and physical health needs, according to Kerry Mullins, vice president for campus life and dean of students.

“Like other colleges and universities, Centenary is seeing an increase in students who need support for basic insecurities like housing and food,” explained Mullins, who recently presented at an OSHE-sponsored conference on Centenary programs that support students in need. “We do not log student participants in our programs to ensure their anonymity. However, we do know of students who have no family or secured

housing and struggle to eat regularly, especially when the campus is closed for holidays or when the semester ends.”

This year, the University significantly enhanced the Cyclone Kitchen, a campus food pantry that is open to Centenary students facing food insecurity. Through a grant from the state’s Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), Cyclone Kitchen offerings have expanded, from a single shelf of canned goods to a fully stocked kitchen of non-perishable items, as well as healthy options such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Centenary was recently notified that OSHE has awarded an additional \$41,730 for the University to purchase additional food supplies, as well as loaner microwaves and refrigerators for use by students who do not have access to kitchens over school breaks.

Perfect Team: USGA and Centenary

Business students enrolled in Centenary University's sports and entertainment management program are teaming up with the United States Golf Association (USGA) on research that could help to shape the merchandise



offered at the U.S. Open in 2025 and 2026. The students are working closely with Ryan Hutchison, manager of merchandise operations for the USGA, to gather data on consumer preferences within the context of market predictions over the next two years.

Associate Professor of Sports and Entertainment Management David Perricone said the seeds for the consulting relationship were planted at the annual Sports and Entertainment Management Symposium organized by Centenary students and held on campus last spring. The conference brings industry professionals together with high school and college students to build knowledge and skills through workshops, panel discussions, roundtables, and interviews for internships and other employment opportunities. Following the event, the New Jersey-based USGA expressed an interest in

working with Centenary students.

"Our students met with the USGA three times during the fall semester and presented their recommendations in December," Perricone explained. "The USGA really wanted the students' perspectives, telling them to think outside the box. And so, our students looked at things like the types of brands this audience buys, current merchandising trends, and market predictions on how far the dollar is likely to go over the next couple of years. Then, they researched possible vendors and made recommendations on those the USGA should consider for upcoming U.S. Opens."

In addition to the USGA, Centenary's sports and information management students work directly with a host of professional sports teams, as well as several Hackettstown-area businesses. Perricone said, "These consulting relationships give our students real-

world experiences meeting with clients and developing marketing plans. For instance, Centenary students actually get on the phone to sell ticketing packages to fans."

The USGA relationship is part of a broader initiative launched last fall by Centenary University

President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., called The Consulting Co-op, which provides free consulting by faculty and students for area businesses. Dr. Caldwell said, "Working with the USGA is just one example of how Centenary students are using their knowledge to make a tangible impact. We also partner with smaller mom and pop business owners, many of whom don't have the breadth of experience to handle diverse tasks such as economic projections, inventory management, accounting, social media, and so much more. In return, Centenary students across a broad range of majors get to work in a real work environment, providing valuable experience they can put on a resume. Centenary has always provided these professional services to the community, but now through The Consulting Co-op, we've formalized it and begun to actively market the benefits."

Academics Expand

Centenary University continues to add new academic programs to meet students' career goals and marketplace demands. This year, the University added a host of Working Degrees to accommodate adults who are working full time (see page 12), as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Humanities to prepare students to navigate the digital workspace—including AI and other digital tools—for responsible and ethical use in the workplace. In addition, Centenary has introduced a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in pre-healthcare, creating a rigorous pathway for students seeking to attend medical, dental, chiropractic, or other health-related professional schools. Other recent additions offered under the Bachelor of Science in Biology

include concentrations in forensic science and environmental science. The University's Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership also became the state's only four-year institution that prepares students after one course to take the test for the American Management Association's Certified Professional in Management® designation.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy D'Olivo said, "Centenary University faculty continue to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to identifying emerging market needs. As a smaller university, we have the faculty expertise to respond quickly with high-quality academic programs that produce graduates who are well-trained to meet those needs."



Chronicling the Pandemic

A group of history students has set about chronicling the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of the Centenary University community. During the fall semester, a Public History class taught by Associate Professor of History Noah Haiduc-Dale, Ph.D., set about to interview students, faculty, and staff to record their experiences throughout the pandemic, from the transition to online teaching and learning, to the response by the University's Health Office, loss of jobs, illness, and other factors that altered everyday life. The project also examines

the innovative ways that Centenary professors and organizations, such as Centenary Stage Company, found ways to reopen in person as the pandemic began to abate.

As a guide, the student team consulted the University's archive about effects of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic on Centenary. However, they were shocked to find no mention in the artifacts preserved from that era. Dr. Haiduc-Dale said, "We checked news clippings and yearbooks from the era and found no mention. The students did

find a reference in a newspaper to all the schools in Hackettstown being closed because of the pandemic, but there was no reference to Centenary."

The lack of information on the effects of the 1918 pandemic on Centenary points to the critical need for public history, which tells the stories of everyday people within the context of important historical events, according to Dr. Haiduc-Dale: "Our job as public historians is to preserve those stories, in a place where everyone can have access to them."

The project has proven to be so expansive that it couldn't be completed in one semester. Dr. Haiduc-Dale said that members of the University's history club will continue collecting artifacts for inclusion in the Centenary University Archives during the spring semester. Students are currently researching ways to preserve the COVID-era artifacts and interviews digitally so they will be easily accessible to future generations.



Authentic Classroom

A new teaching laboratory that recreates an elementary and middle school classroom is providing Centenary University education students with a realistic setting that better prepares them for teaching careers. Funded by the Kappa Delta Epsilon (KDE) Honor Society, the clinical classroom provides opportunities for students to learn the ins-and-outs of working and developing best practices in a space where everything is sized for children.

The flexible space can be adapted to accommodate teaching and learning for kindergarten through eighth grade. It features a collaboration area to facilitate group work, whole and small



group instruction areas, multisensory materials, and station tables.

"Kappa Delta Epsilon Honor Society initiated and created the vision for the clinical classroom, generously donated the materials, and manages its maintenance and use," said Lexis McCoy, Ed.D., KDE's faculty advisor, director of the Master of Education in Literacy Instruction/ESL Teacher Certification, and associate profes-

sor in the School of Education and Humanities. "The members saw a need for this type of setting in the education program and hope this generous gift will provide preservice teachers with an enhanced educational experience within Centenary University's School of Education and Humanities."

TRAC at 20

As Therapeutic Riding at Centenary celebrates 20 years, founders reflect on program's impact on participants with disabilities



Two decades ago, Professor Emerita Octavia Brown, D.H.L., HA '08 was asked to bring Centenary's therapeutic riding and instructor training programs under one roof. An experienced adaptive riding educator, Dr. Brown pitched the project to a friend, who donated \$50,000 to establish Therapeutic Riding at Centenary (TRAC). "The rest, as they say, is history," Dr. Brown said.

Since its founding 20 years ago, TRAC has served hundreds of participants, including people with physical and cognitive disabilities, as well as specialized populations such as military

veterans, at-risk youth, and residents of assisted living facilities. The program provides physical, social-emotional, and cognitive benefits, while enhancing goals such as balance, strength, and sensory integration. TRAC is also one of the few collegiate training grounds in the nation for students seeking a career in therapeutic riding.

"Reaching a 20-year milestone is a cause for celebration for any equine-assisted services program, and I'm so pleased to be celebrating this for TRAC," said Karen Brittle, director of TRAC and assistant professor of equine studies at Centenary. "In addition to serving TRAC participants, this program supports the development of therapeutic riding instructors and program leaders for the equine-assisted services industry."

Tracy Cole has been involved with TRAC as a participant and then an instructor since the program's inception: "TRAC has been a huge benefit in my life. It is not just a riding program, it's a family. Everyone cares, and I mean everyone—from TRAC participants, families, and volunteers to Centenary students and barn staff."



Prayers for the Animals

Centenary University marked World Animal Day with the annual Blessing of the Animals. President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., a Methodist minister and pastor, prayed for the health and well-being of the equine center's horses, as well as pets belonging to members of the University community and neighbors. The event was held Oct. 4 at the Centenary University Equestrian Center, home of the University's nationally-recognized equestrian program.



DEFINING A *Presidency*



Centenary University inaugurated Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., as its 15th president in a daylong celebration marked by two central themes that will define his term: Fostering educational opportunity and service to others. Held on Oct. 21, the event reflected Dr. Caldwell's deep commitment to justice and emphasized the vital role higher education plays in shaping a successful future for students and society.

During his inaugural address, Dr. Caldwell announced the launch of *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*. The capital campaign will raise \$8 million over two years to provide significant financial assistance, as well as specialized academic programs and support services, for Centenary students—especially those facing economic and personal challenges. The goal: To ensure that every student, regardless of family income or circumstances, has the means to earn a Centenary University degree.

Dr. Caldwell noted that many students begin college, only to drop out because they don't have the money to complete their degree. Sometimes, they're only a few thousand dollars short. Dr. Caldwell added, "Unfortunately, their families are struggling and cannot make those payments, which to many are seemingly small. Can you imagine being that close to graduating and not being able to because of money?"

One of the most influential voices in New Jersey higher education today, Dr. Caldwell noted that Centenary plays an important role in lifting the future for students from all backgrounds: "Centenary, more than any other university I know, has transformed lives in a way that many think is not possible. We have amazing stories of students from poor families, students with special needs, and students with emotional challenges who come to us broken. However, the unique academic and emotional support we provide transforms these students from broken lives to productive citizens.

"Yet, this campaign is not just about me or Centenary University. It is about us supporting brilliant students, first generation students, and other young people who thought that college was not an option."



The inauguration took place in Centenary University's David and Carol Lackland Center, a building symbolic of the power of charitable giving. As a student, Carol Burgess Lackland '54 needed just \$500 to graduate. Through the generosity of a donor who stepped up to help, she earned her Centenary degree and enjoyed a successful career in radio. Years later, she and her husband, David Lackland, paid it forward with a \$16 million gift to build the center named in their honor. Dr. Caldwell said, "What a priceless return on investment from that \$500 gift!"

Attended by dignitaries from across the state, nation, and internationally, the ceremony marked a historic moment for the University: Dr. Caldwell is Centenary's first African American president. His daughter, Ashley Marie Caldwell, delivered the keynote address at the inauguration. She said of her father, "My dad feels that he has been blessed with amazing parents, a wonderful brother, a daughter who is not too bad, a top-notch education, and tremendous work experience. He feels called to use these privileges to speak out for the voiceless and the rights of people who are struggling in life... I have never seen him as happy as he has been being president of Centenary University."

The ceremony capped an inauguration day infused with Dr. Caldwell's commitment to service. A Methodist minister, he is pastor of Covenant United Methodist Church in New Brunswick, NJ. Prior to the inauguration, he joined students at several community-based initiatives, including delivering books to a county prison and volunteering at local nonprofits such as Hackettstown Clean, Trinity Church, First Presbyterian Church, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and the Centenary University food pantry. Kathleen Greco, the University's head of community engagement, said, "Dr. Caldwell went to every single project and worked alongside the students all morning. They were so impressed that he took the time to serve others on such an important day."

Student speakers at the inauguration included Jenna Glinko '23, who is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance at the University, and Mathias O'Neill '24, who is completing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in business management. Norman Worth, former chair of the Centenary University Board of Trustees and president/general manager of WRNJ Radio, Inc., served as master of ceremonies.







CENTENARY

THE CAMPAIGN FOR COLLEGE & OPPORTUNITY



NOW FOR EVERYONE

Last fall, Centenary University launched the public phase of *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*. This capital campaign will raise \$8 million over the next two years to ensure that current and prospective Centenary University students have the financial and academic support they need to enroll in and complete college.

The Case for Support

In his inaugural address, Centenary University President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., noted that many students, in New Jersey and around the country, eschew college in favor of direct entry into the workforce. Key drivers of this trend are difficulty affording college and declining public confidence in the value of a college education.

However, studies show that college is well worth the cost and effort: College graduates have 57 percent more employment opportunities than non-graduates, have received 72.4 percent of all jobs offered since 2010, and earn an average salary of \$84,000, compared to \$49,000 for those without a degree. It's clear that a college degree can lift the future for students—now and for a lifetime.

Centenary University has a rich history of providing the academic, financial, social, and emotional support to give students from all walks of life the opportunity to succeed in college. In fact, earlier this year, *US News & World Report* named Centenary as a Top Performer in Social Mobility, placing the University among top colleges and universities across the nation for graduating and achieving equitable outcomes for students from underserved backgrounds.

In announcing *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*, Dr. Caldwell said, "Centenary, more than any other university I know, has transformed lives in a way that many think is not possible. We have amazing stories of students from poor families, students with special needs, and students with emotional challenges who come to us broken. However, the unique academic and emotional support we provide transforms these students from broken lives to productive citizens. Yet, this campaign is not just about me or Centenary University. It is about us supporting brilliant students, first generation students, and other young people who thought that college was not an option."

First Gen Voices



Carol Burgess Lackland '54 needed just \$500 to complete her Centenary degree. Then, a generous graduate stepped up to help. Not only did Carol go on to graduate, she had a successful career in radio—and later paid it forward with a \$16 million gift to build the David and Carol Lackland Center at Centenary.



Tamar Wertz '22 has several older siblings who entered the job market directly after high school. But Tamar had other plans: To become the first in his immediate family to graduate from college. At Centenary, he connected with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and became a campus leader, running the University's annual Sports and Entertainment Management Symposium. Thanks to a Centenary scholarship and generous financial aid, Tamar graduated with very little debt. He says, "With a Centenary education, you can be a leader no matter where you go."

Campaign Priorities

Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone will enable Centenary to provide an affordable education to all students, whether they are traditional day session students or working full time while attending college. Dr. Caldwell has identified three campaign priorities:

1. **Provide financial assistance** in the form of scholarships and tuition discounts for students demonstrating financial need, with an emphasis on first generation students and those forced to drop out due to financial constraints
2. **Establish innovative academic programs** to provide an excellent academic education, with ample support, that meets the unique needs of nontraditional students
3. **Invest in our local community** by leveraging faculty and student expertise to provide professional guidance and support for local business owners, nonprofits, and other members of our community

A Strong Start

Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone has already resonated with donors. In the silent phase of the campaign, donors contributed more than \$2.1 million—approximately 26 percent of the campaign goal. Dr. Caldwell has joined them in supporting the campaign with a significant gift, signaling his deep personal commitment to Centenary University.

Through the extraordinary generosity of our donors, the campaign has already begun making an immediate impact on the lives of our students:

1. **New First-gen Scholarships**—Thanks to an anonymous donor, Centenary University awarded 10 scholarships to first-generation college students this fall.
2. **New Working Degree Program**—Contributions have funded discounted tuition, specialized academic programs, and support services to break down barriers preventing full-time workers from completing a college degree. The Working Degree Program offers four new bachelor's degrees: Working B.A. in Psychology, Working B.S. in Nursing, Working B.S. in Accounting, and Working B.S. in Business Administration, as well as a Working Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts.
3. **The Consulting Co-op**—Centenary University this fall launched The Consulting Co-op, which harnesses

the knowledge of our faculty and students to provide professional consulting, free of charge, to local businesses and well-known professional organizations, including the United States Golf Association.

It's only the beginning. Dr. Caldwell has set forth an ambitious plan to establish Centenary University as an influential voice shaping the national conversation on the future of higher education: "With a number of nationally-recognized programs—including the world's first Master of Arts in Happiness Studies and our renowned Equine Studies program—Centenary University is already a recognized higher education leader. Through this capital campaign, we will establish Centenary University as a transformative national model that takes students from economic challenge to intellectual brilliance."

Now, It's Your Turn

The success of *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone* will depend on the participation of prominent business and philanthropic leaders, as well as alumni and friends, who share Dr. Caldwell's bold vision for the future. Jordan Glatt, vice president for advancement and special assistant to the president, noted, "Centenary is grateful to the individuals and foundations that have stepped up with leadership gifts for this capital campaign. Throughout Centenary's history, we have witnessed the power of philanthropy to change lives. Every gift, whether large or small, leads to a better future for Centenary University and its students."

Ways to Give

It's easy to make a gift to *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*.

1. Click [here](#) to make your gift online
2. [Scan the QR code](#)
3. [Text CYCLONES](#) to 243725
4. [Mail your check](#)

payable to Centenary University to:
Office of Advancement
Centenary University
400 Jefferson St.
Seay Administration Building
Hackettstown, NJ 07840



Jason Toledo '23 believes in paying it forward. He supplemented an EOP scholarship with earnings working on campus as a resident assistant to ensure that his mother—an immigrant from Costa Rica—wouldn't have to worry about how to pay tuition. The campus leader and student-athlete is also committed to service: Every Thursday, he volunteered at a Hackettstown church to unload trucks with food pantry donations. Jason says, "People at Centenary really pushed me in the right direction. They saw my potential."



Hailey Tibus '27 had always dreamed of attending Centenary University. But her family faced significant financial challenges, and Hailey thought college was out of reach—until she earned a full, four-year scholarship to Centenary. Today, the business management major is president of a campus club for first generation college students. Hailey says, "I feel like so many opportunities have opened up to me at Centenary. To the donors who contributed to this scholarship, I would just like to say, 'Thank you for changing my life.'"

Growing in Prominence

Centenary University's reputation as a leading voice in higher education is growing. Here are six ways we've been recognized—in New Jersey, across the nation, and around the world.

1. Social Mobility

In its 2024 Best College rankings, *US News & World Report* named Centenary a Top Performer in Social Mobility—placing the University among the nation's best educational institutions for advancing the careers and lives of its graduates, especially first-generation college students and those who face economic challenges. Specifically, the publication's metrics measure how well colleges and universities graduate large proportions of economically and educationally disadvantaged recipients of federal Pell Grants.



2. Getting Out the Vote

For the second consecutive year, Centenary University was the national winner of the annual Ballot Bowl competition, a nonpartisan initiative promoting voter registration and engagement on college campuses. In a virtual awards ceremony, the University was also recognized as a regional winner in New Jersey. Working through the University's Office of Community Engagement, Centenary students bested more than 965 participating campuses across the nation—including 23 New Jersey institutions of higher education—in the percentage of enrolled students who expressed their intent to vote.

Through a mini-grant from Engage NJ, an organization dedicated to advancing democracy through student engagement, Centenary launched an effort this year to register every first-year student to vote. So far, the University has hosted Bagels for Ballots breakfasts and Pizza for Politics lunches for freshman courses with the highest voter registrations, invited guest speakers to campus to discuss the importance of voting, and hosted a student-led lecture series called Dialogue and Deeds to encourage civic engagement. This year's nonpartisan efforts have set the stage for 2024, when Centenary students will continue signing up their peers in preparation for the next presidential election.



3. Equine Excellence

Centenary University's equine studies program is currently ranked second in the nation by College Raptor, a leading college planning tool for high school students and their families. The University's acclaimed Equine Studies Department is a perennial leader in



preparing students for a broad range of careers in the industry and has an outstanding record for graduate admissions to highly competitive veterinary schools. In addition, Therapeutic Riding at Centenary (TRAC) has gained international recognition in recent years from Path Intl., which leads the advancement of professional equine-assisted services to support more than 53,000 special needs individuals, including nearly 6,000 veterans.

4. A World of Joy

In June, the Master of Arts in Happiness Studies will graduate its first cohort of 90 students, who are already using their knowledge of the field to make an impact. Alla Klymenko '24 is a psychologist who fled to the United States from Ukraine after the war broke out in 2022. She partnered with Tal Ben-Shahar, Ph.D., director of Centenary's master's program and an international expert on happiness studies, and several other colleagues to create a free online resiliency course for Ukrainians in the war-torn country.

The first program of its kind in the world, the Master of Arts in Happiness Studies was featured by a host of major media during the fall semester, including National Public Radio (NPR). The fully accredited program currently enrolls more than 150 students from 15 countries, including South Africa and Vietnam, as well as other nations in Europe and South America.

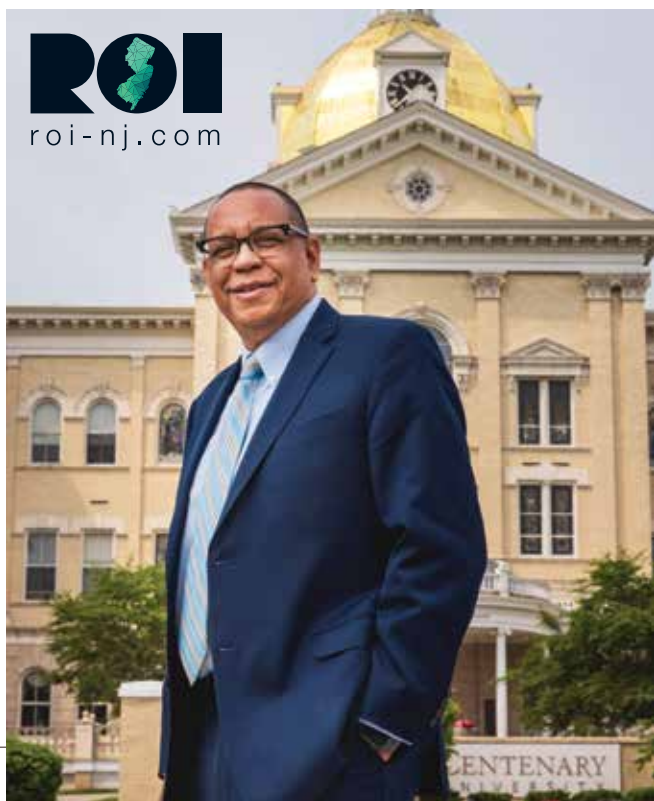
5. Best in State

Readers of prominent business publication *NJBIZ* selected Centenary University's Bachelor of Science in Accounting as New Jersey's best accounting degree program. In the 2023 *NJBIZ* Reader Rankings released last fall, Centenary also placed second for its Master of Business Administration and was named New Jersey's second best college/university.

6. Power President

In his first semester as Centenary University president, Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., was recognized by two prominent business publications in New Jersey. *ROINJ* named Dr. Caldwell among the state's 150 most influential CEOs in its 2023 Champions of the C-Suite list, as well as to its 2023 ROI Influencers: People of Color list. In addition, Dr. Caldwell was ninth on the *NJBIZ* 2023 Education Power 50 list.

One of the most influential voices in New Jersey higher education, Dr. Caldwell has been tapped by major media to provide commentary on a host of topics, including the Supreme Court's decision on Affirmative Action, first generation scholarships, and his new direction for Centenary University.



Centenary Adds NCEA Equestrian Team



Centenary University will introduce a National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) Division III team beginning in the 2024-25 academic year. The University will be the

first in New Jersey to field an NCEA team, the highest level of competition offered for women riders through the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The new team will complement the University's existing coed Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) team. One of the top college equine programs in the country, Centenary has produced countless leaders in the sport, as well as numerous nationally ranked riders.

NCEA competition is growing at the DIII level, making it an attractive option for smaller schools like Centenary, explained Michael Dowling, assistant professor of equine studies, who will coach Centenary's new team with Heather Clark, assistant professor of equine studies. "This positions Centenary to recruit a higher level of rider and enhance our existing program," explained Dowling, who together with Clark also coaches Centenary's IHSA team. "Parents understand NCAA sports and

want that for their children. The top riders are all going to NCEA schools, yet we have academic opportunities not offered at larger DI and DII schools. In fact, Centenary will be the only NCEA school offering a degree program in equine studies."

A key to Centenary's decision was the NCEA's announcement several years ago that it would offer a single discipline championship, which supports teams with only a jumping seat emphasis. Centenary plans to compete in single discipline jumping seat and will spend the current academic year recruiting student-athletes for the 2024-25 season. While Dowling and Clark don't plan on the team competing this year, Centenary has already been invited to participate in several scrimmages this spring. Dowling said, "Centenary is very well respected in the IHSA world, so we want to build on that reputation. This year will be our planning year, familiarizing ourselves with all the intricacies of the NCEA and recruiting our team. Our plan is to start out strong and be a contender in our first season."

Kelly Munz, who chairs the Equine Department, agreed: "We are at the top of our game with our IHSA team—Centenary is one of the strongest teams in the country. With the addition of this NCEA team, we will be looking to recruit top riders, while maintaining our strong IHSA team, which provides a place for all levels of riders, from beginners to advanced. The addition of an NCEA team will enhance Centenary's reputation nationally."

Wrestling Starts Strong

Centenary University wrestling is climbing in the national rankings. At press time, the Cyclones held the 17th spot in the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) poll. Two-time NCAA national qualifier Xavier Pena '24 was an early team leader in the national rankings, fourth for his weight division (141 lbs), with Danny Haws '26 ranked 13th at 133 lbs. and Keevon Berry '24 in 20th at 197 lbs.

The team came away with a host of champions and finalists in a trio of early season outings, including the Bob Quade Invitational hosted by Centenary in December. Pena and Haws joined Jack Thode '26 (125 lbs.) on the podium with first place finishes. Berry and Arik Hums '27 (285 lbs.) placed second in their respective weight classes, while Hunter Cleaver '27 (174 lbs.) was third.

Head Coach John Garriques said, "Our performance and the national rankings show that this team's hard work and dedication are being recognized. Now, it's our job to keep moving up. I see a lot of familiar attributes with this team, similar to past championship teams. Our job is to be grateful for this recognition and keep moving forward."





On Fire!

The Centenary University Cyclones teamed up with the Skylanders of Sussex County Community College for a fall bonfire to show their spirit for student-athletes from both institutions. More than 200 enthusiastic students turned out for the weekend event, which featured a pep rally and other fun activities. Through the SkyClones Partnership—the first of its kind in New Jersey—Centenary provides residence life space on campus for SCCC students, primarily football players. Now in its third year, the unique agreement has provided a pathway for SCCC students to continue their education at a four-year college. While 30 percent of SkyClones participants reported in a fall 2022 survey that they would not have attended college without the partnership, almost every SCCC football player in the first cohort has now gone on to further their education at a four-year college.



Chris LaBelle '21 was recently named interim head men's basketball coach for the Cyclones.

Dream Job

The Cyclones gave **Chris LaBelle '21** a special present in his first outing as Centenary University's new interim head men's basketball coach: A 72-57 win over The City College of New York. LaBelle takes over the helm after enjoying a storied career with the Cyclones. He stands first in free throws and assists; second in career points, points per game, and field goals; and third in three-pointers.

"Having the opportunity to take over as interim head coach has been a dream come true for me," said LaBelle. "Coaching basketball has always been my dream job and getting to start that journey at the place I call home makes it even more surreal."

A transfer admissions counselor at Centenary, LaBelle received a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management from the University, and began classes toward a Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration immediately after graduation. He also signed on as an assistant coach with the Cyclones. Today, one of his assistant coaches is his friend **Kyle O'Brien '23**, who had served as a student assistant coach during LaBelle's playing career.

This year's team is young—three freshmen are starters—and has had a rocky start. But, the first-year coach sees a lot of promise. In one of his first media interviews, LaBelle told a reporter from the *Trentonian*, "Because we are young, we have to learn how to win. We had leads in both of our first two games and played well... We have to continue to gain experience."

Reflecting on his tenure as a Centenary player, and now head coach, LaBelle added, "My time on the men's basketball team here at Centenary University has given me some of the best memories of my life. Being able to play the sport I love, while also getting to further my education, solidified to me that Centenary is truly the perfect home. I am very excited to bring the passion and work ethic from my time as a player at Centenary and apply it to coaching this team and our student-athletes."

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 Larson writes: "Congratulations to Centenary's new president—on to bigger and better things! My third great-grandson was born Oct. 2, which is also my first grandson's birthday. My heart and lungs are recovering very well. I walked 1.5 miles to our pier overlooking the Pacific Ocean."

Betty Poppele Barrett writes: "My three great-grandsons are 6, 3, and 1. They keep me entertained. I am happy to report that my other grandson's wife gave birth to a girl on Oct. 30. At last, a girl to dress up in pretty dresses! I have fully recuperated from my hernia surgery and am enjoying life with my family. I am still in my house and only drive locally. My son and daughter check on me every day. All is good."

1960

Betsy Thomas writes: "Paul and I remain pretty much the same. He has a little more trouble breathing, but we muddle along. I'm active writing notes to our church shut-ins, those who are grieving a loss, those in the hospital, etc. I still crochet, cross-stitch, and read when I can."

"Suzanne (Suzie) Wyatt Maurer and her husband, Woody, just moved to an independent living community in Vero Beach, Fla. They live in a cottage and are provided with meals. It takes a burden off their daughter, Linda, who lives not far from them. They are in a situation where they can receive more help in the future if they need it. They have lived in Florida for about 30 years, so it is their home. Their son, Jack, lives in the Rome, NY, area with their two children, Keira and Blake. Suzie, like many of us, wishes she could get together with old friends."

"I also heard from **Ann Dothard Walters**. She and her husband, George, live a quiet life in Naples, Fla. She is looking forward to the holidays when her daughter will visit with her husband, two grandchildren, and their significant others. Ann writes, 'I stay in touch with my roomie, **Janine Evans Brothers**, and **Gerry Mace Murphy** and her roomie, **Gail Christianson Stewart**. We share titles of our favorite books and add them to our growing list of books to read.'"



Ann Dothard Walters '60 and her husband, George

1961

Joyce Fierro Velzy's husband, Bob, died in September. He was 94. Joyce writes, "I was a very lucky lady to have married a mechanic, carpenter, plumber, gardener, pilot, and a fixer-of-everything, all in one husband. Bob was a perfect role model for our two sons. We were married for 57 years in June."

Joyce continues: "In early November, **Nancy Heimert Zabka**, with all of her family and friends, had a Celebration of Life for her husband, Stan. Nancy wrote a brief obituary: 'Stanley William Zabka, World War II veteran, accomplished composer, TV and film director, and author, was born on Nov. 6, 1924 and passed away at home on Oct. 7, 2023, one month shy of turning 99. We celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary in August. A happy event was the birth of our third great-grandchild, who was born this Thanksgiving. Christmas will probably find me in Nashville with the families of my two sons.'

"**Doris Nicholson Clark** passed away in October after living in memory care for more than two years. After working briefly in a bank after high school, Doris joined United Airlines as a flight attendant, where she proudly worked for 40 years. Doris enjoyed playing golf, bridge, and mahjong. She and her husband, Larry, traveled extensively over the years. Doris was a faithful volunteer with many organizations

and was named Community Outreach Volunteer of the Year in 2008."

Judy Wisdom Quinn and her husband, Quinnie, celebrated 60 years of marriage in April. Judy writes: "Our two grandsons are in college. We live in Stuart, Fla., most of the year. We both love to play duplicate bridge, although not together. I used to play golf avidly, but the old body says, 'No way.' My sister, **Jean Wisdom Weaver**, and her husband live nearby...only a mile away. She still plays golf, but only nine holes. She also enjoys duplicate bridge. We both read and do needlework. All the best to my Centenary classmates!"

June Adams Salaun writes: "I am still chugging along, playing golf and tennis and keeping up with my three rescue dogs. I talk with **Janice Auer Scrabis** often. Her husband, Bob, who played for the Jets, died in August and, though better now, Janice had been in and out of the hospital since. It's been a tough time for her. It will be good to hear from classmates with good news."

Jan (Mouse) Mittell Kinasewich writes: "I live in Cambridge, Mass., as I have for most of my adult life; it's a great city. I am mostly retired from the real estate business here, but still have my hand in a few deals. I'm on the board of a village program that helps seniors stay in their homes as they age, rather than moving to another location; it's a good group. My three children are doing well. My daughter lives in Kissimmee, Fla., and the two boys live in Sandwich, Mass. My two grandchildren are also nearby, which is wonderful. So far everyone, including me, is upright and independent and living well. I have such happy memories of Centenary!"

Debbie Sisbower Lingwood writes: "We are very thankful for Elden's full recovery

from his kidney cancer after the kidney was removed in May. We had a very cool, wet summer and fall in Maine. We headed south to our winter home in Massachusetts in mid-November and hope to return to Maine in April, as soon as the ice is off the lake and we can put our boat in. I am thankful for my good health. I enjoyed going to our grandson's Parents Weekend at Lafayette College, where I had not been since attending Centenary and dating there. So many changes to behold in Easton, Penn. It's a very upscale and beautiful campus and town. Wishing my classmates good health, blessings, and peace throughout the coming year."

Marian Morse Glendinning Kinder writes: "As some of you may know, I married Jim 22 years ago, after we both lost our spouses to cancer. Our blended family has given us eight children, 17 grandchildren, many married and one more to be married in the spring. And I must not forget our first great-grandchild, Stella! I always wanted a large family and now we have one. Jim and I are truly blessed with the simple things in life, like going to the local theaters and entertaining friends and family. Last night as the first snow fell, we sat by the fire, all cozied up reading our books. It felt so good to have some quiet time. I must say, though, we do so enjoy having our various families visit to catch up and do some chores together. It is very helpful. During these visits, Jim and I will host a family dinner so the local families can join in and everyone can catch up."

"October seems to be a favorite time for Jim's family to visit because it is his birthday month. This year he turned 88, but you would never know it. He has worked at Arrowhead Golf Club

for 12 years as their starter. He loves it and, as you can imagine, he brings home all the local news. He has a very strong faith and always a positive outlook on life. I am so blessed to have him for the second time around. And me? Well, my favorite job of all time was working at Marianjoy rehab hospital. I worked with the chaplains in the spiritual care department. It was, indeed, a pleasure to share joyous occasions, as well as heartache with the patients. Unfortunately, COVID came along and this part of the spiritual care department had to be terminated. Hopefully, it will soon be reinstated. In the meantime, I enjoy visiting people in various care facilities and working with our cancer and chronic support group at church. Hi to all and may your lives be full of good things and as joyous as ours!"

Wendy Taylor Bigelow writes: "It's been quite a few years since I actually submitted a note, but feel maybe it's time. I am still happily living in Ormond Beach, Fla., for the past 23 years and I'm on my fourth house in the same wonderful, gated community called Plantation Bay. We still go up to our home on Cape Cod for three months in the summer. I'm still very active; I play pickleball, do oil painting, play bridge, perform on the stage in big shows, and sing in our local city chorus. I have so many memories of singing with the Centenary Singers, as I know so many of my classmates do. I have great memories of Mr. Ganz's music classes and singing in the chapel at least once or twice a week."

"I am so proud to be a Centenary alumna, as our college has grown into a coed University with so many diverse programs and offering many degree

choices. Centenary really has kept itself alive over the years, even as other junior colleges don't exist anymore. Hope everyone is doing well. I miss our college days together. Hugs to all."

1997

Michael Lamison '97/02, a school counselor at Hackettstown High School, was recently recognized as the 2023 Educational Service Professional of the Year for Hackettstown.

2007

Pete Vincent is the assistant director of facility operations for New Jersey City University. Since joining the university's Athletic Department in 2011, he has served in a number of roles, including assistant director of the Rising Knight Institute, assistant to the athletics director, and coordinator of the Athletic Academic Retention Program. A Cyclone men's basketball alumnus, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a minor in political science from Centenary.

2015

Natalia Ortega is a senior promotions associate for Fanatics, Inc.

2016

Curtis Mackowiak wears many hats. He is president of CM Productions LLC and a physician liaison at FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Center of Hackettstown, as well as a substitute teacher in New Jersey, podcast host, and published artist. He launched CM Productions LLC in 2021 to help small businesses grow by utilizing multi-channel marketing

MAKE AN IMPACT

with a gift to The Centenary Fund

Want to make a meaningful gift this year? Your contribution to The Centenary Fund provides immediate, flexible resources that make a big impact on the lives of our students:

- ✓ Scholarships and financial assistance
- ✓ New academic programs
- ✓ Technology upgrades
- ✓ Undergraduate research
- ✓ Career opportunities

It's easy to send your gift—just scan the QR code or go to centenaryuniversity.edu/givenow.



Giving made easy!

Open the camera on your phone and hover over the code, click the link that pops up on top, and give right from your phone!

Welcome Home, Alumni

Cyclone spirit was on tap during the fall semester, as alumni returned to campus for Alumni and Family Day on Oct. 7 and the inauguration of Centenary University President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., on Oct. 21.

Alumni and Family Day



Presidential Inauguration



Poetry Illuminates History

Award winning-poet Trish Houts Reeves '67 appears in the PBS American Experience documentary *Plague at the Golden Gate*, which examines the desperate hunt for the source of San Francisco's bubonic plague outbreak at the turn of the 20th century. The outbreak led to violent anti-Asian sentiment fueled by political expediency, ignorance, greed, racism, and deep-rooted distrust of federal authority and science.

The second section of Reeves's latest book, *The Receipt* (Cynren Press, April 2023), describes a plague doctor's first encounter with Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, where a quarantine station was established in response to the plague. *The Receipt* is a tribute to the human spirit, blending poetry with history, including pre-cataclysmic Pompeii, Michelangelo on horseback to Bologna, and the San Francisco plague.

A prolific writer, Reeves taught at Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas for 21 years, and also led the Changing Lives Through Literature Program for Johnson County Kansas Corrections. She holds a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Warren Wilson College.



Holiday Cheer

Centenary University rang in the holiday season as a lead sponsor of Hackettstown's Hometown Holiday. A highlight of the event is always the grand illumination of the Edward W. Seay Building, which was funded this year through the generosity of **Stephen M. Somers '19 HA** and his wife, Sharon Somers. In addition, the Alumni Association Executive Board hosted a holiday party to show their appreciation for Centenary University's faculty, administration, and staff.



Weddings

Sal Manzella '15 and **Meghan Delaplain '16** were married on Aug. 5. Sal was a sports management major and a member of the Centenary baseball team. He is currently the operations manager with the Brooklyn Nets and was recently inducted into Centenary's Sports Management Hall of Fame. Meghan was a liberal arts/elementary education major and worked a few semesters in the Centenary admissions office. She is currently working in Jersey City as a fourth and fifth grade math teacher.

solutions to increase brand awareness and sales while keeping a good handle on outreach and intake. He also recently received his New Jersey press pass from the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists. This new credential will allow him to expand his business and provide information to communities about local happenings on a more professional level. Curtis writes: "I love what I do. I work a flex schedule every single day and always wanted to."



Curtis Mackowiak

Donald Wagner was sworn in as an officer with the Newton Police Department in Newton, NJ. He previously served as a corrections officer with the Morris County Department of Corrections. A Cyclone wrestling alumnus, he earned a degree in criminal justice from Centenary and held an internship with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

2017

Alexandra Holbrook and her business, Something Royal, received a Super 60 Award from the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce in Massachusetts. The business was one of 12 selected in the start-up category, which is for businesses in operation for five or fewer years that have achieved revenue growth over a three-year period. The firm provides costumed characters for birthday parties and special events.

Paul Jones '17/21 was named head boys basketball coach at Ewing High School in Trenton, NJ.

2018

Michael Caprari is a finance manager at Marsh McLennan, where he started as an analyst after earning his degree from Centenary University. His team is responsible for consolidating corporate financials and analytics, and communicating the results to other business units and senior leadership. The team is currently working on a project that is expected to generate approximately \$400 million of savings for the company.



Michael Caprari '18

Kendall Casaccio recently attended the Capital Challenge Horse Show in Prince Georges, Md. Competing in the NAL Adult Jumper Final, she rode her mare, Indigo ES, to the win. Since graduating from Centenary, she moved back to South Jersey and has been working for her family's real estate development business. Kendall is currently finishing up her first project, which she started after graduation, to build a 92-home development. Kendall writes, "I am thankful to have been able to work for my family. I wouldn't be

able to continue to ride and compete at this level working anywhere else."



Kendall Casaccio '18

Nicole Cartaino is a business development executive with the New York City Football Club.

Luis Santiago was promoted to manager of membership sales for the New York City Football Club.

2019

Jack Reinhard was the keynote speaker for Centenary University's Fall Convocation in September. He is a reporter with WFMZ-TV.

2022

Andrew Marchese was recently promoted to account executive, new business development with the New York Mets.

2023

Christina Holmberg passed the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification exam for Medical Laboratory Science. She works in the microbiology department for a hospital in South Carolina.

In Memoriam

- Joan M. Van Kirk Bailey '47** 7/30/2023
- Doris Nicholson Clark '61** 10/4/2023
- Ann D. Davis Goodwin '52** 11/17/2022
- Kathryn Lawrence Hall '57** 7/29/2023
- Mary Hutchison '58** 5/4/2023
- Carole Reimold Weiss '55** 1/12/2023
- Joyce (Joy) Murdock Winston '60** 3/4/2023

Board of Trustees

Officers

Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97
Chair

Michael Catapano '92
1st Vice Chair

David Dallas
2nd Vice Chair

John Johnson
3rd Vice Chair

David Johnson
Treasurer

Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Secretary

Board of Trustee Members:

Carol Valentine Allen, '72/74

Lester Aron

Mark Avondoglio

Denise DiGiacomo Blasevick '90

Cathleen Compoli

Joyce Hansen

Jill Kracov-Zinckgraf, Ed.D., MPA

Phil Linfante, Ph.D.

Denise Littleton, Ed.D.

Fred Mangione '93/15 HA

A. Lynn Moran '88, MBA, ACC

Darlene Panzitta

Esther Poulsen

Sunita Pradhan

Angela Rodriguez Moore '90/22 HA,

Alumni Representative Trustee

Wendy Ross, DVM

Bishop John Schol

M. Alden Siegel '14 HA

Timothy Smith

Vicki Sylvain

Drew Wintemberg

Edward Yaw, Ed.D.

Chair Emeritus

Wolfgang Gstattenbauer '84/13 HA

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 Mildenberger '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

Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62

Pacesetter



Christina Carrillo '15 got an upclose look at last fall's TCS New York City Marathon. As a social media consultant for the New York Road Runners, she worked with a team responsible for sharing the energy and excitement of the world-famous event across major digital platforms around the globe.

Through captivating photos, engaging videos, and compelling stories, Carrillo and her team conveyed the spirit of the marathon, from the starting line on the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge on Staten Island to the race's final miles in Central Park. The social media campaign included pre-event posts, as well as live updates and real-time responses to comments and messages from followers. Carrillo also had the opportunity to connect with members of the New York Jets, asking players about their ability to run 26.2 miles, and a day later, arranging for the men's and women's marathon champions to be celebrated at Met Life Stadium during a Jets game.

Reflecting on the experience on LinkedIn, Carrillo wrote, "Collaborating with such a talented and passionate team was an absolute joy. We worked together seamlessly...The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose was incredible, and it made the long hours and fast-paced nature of the event feel energizing rather than overwhelming. One of the most rewarding aspects of my role was witnessing the impact of our social media efforts. The overwhelming support and encouragement from followers, the heartfelt messages from runners, and the sense of unity and inspiration that permeated through every post were truly incredible. It reminded me of the power of storytelling and the ability of social media to bring people together."



Alumni Association Executive Board

Yolanda Sheffield Williams '06
President

Bryan Watkinson '07
First Vice President

Devon Paffendorf '10/11
Second Vice President

Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06
Recording Secretary

Faith Hyndman '63
Corresponding Secretary

Brooke Smith Westenberger '13
Treasurer

Carol Allen '72/74
Immediate Past President

Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks '04/06
Past President

Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Nominating Committee Chairperson
Angela Rodriguez Moore '90/22 HA
Alumni Trustee

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Isaiah Anderson '23

Sarah DeGeorge '15

Angie Desai '07

Cara Gibson-Gallop '10/12

Margarite Snead Gravesande '85/14

Tom Kazinci '93/94

Lauren Hope Kreeger '10

Casey Kucinski '11

Melissa Mandas '95

Sandile C. Manzini '11

Bill McNier '14

Kathy Notillo Nolan '98/02

Vita Romanelli-Young '78/80

Tamiko Scian '96

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jenna Glinko '23

Onoshope Itunoya-Musa '24

Profile in Courage

The Atlantic East Conference recognized **Erin Nappi '23** with the 2023 Medal of Inspiration, presented to individuals who became stronger versions of themselves after battling through adversity with resilience and grace. Last winter, doctors diagnosed Nappi with severe ulcerative colitis, which had life-threatening side effects requiring four surgeries and a month-long hospital stay.

An intern with both Centenary's Sports Information Office and the Atlantic East Conference, Nappi first underwent tests revealing that her large intestine was enlarged, requiring surgery. During the procedure, doctors discovered a number of life-threatening conditions in other internal organs; while serious, those conditions were expected to add an extra week to her recovery. However, a week after surgery Nappi stopped breathing during a CT scan due to an infection, leading to emergency surgery. As a result of the ordeal, Nappi's muscles had atrophied and she had to relearn how to walk, while also catching up on her classwork to graduate on time.

Although at times Nappi still didn't feel well, she resumed her internships, working a variety of different sports games and traveling with the Centenary baseball team as its director of operations. Atlantic East Assistant Commissioner Rebecca Mullen said, "You never would have known how much Erin was juggling as she continued to work to a high level and showcase how resilient she is. It was an honor to be able to support this intern and see Erin prepare herself for the next steps in her career. I know she will continue to be successful, especially after seeing her fight through adversity and finish as strong as she did."

A Centenary University Hackettstown Scholar, Nappi graduated last May with the Class of 2023. She now works as an athletic media relations graduate assistant at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in sports administration.



On Stage at Centenary

Centenary University is proud to be the home of Centenary Stage Company, northwestern New Jersey's premiere regional theatre. Experience the charm of Hackettstown—named the state's best rural town by Only in Your State—while taking in a professional performance at Centenary. Looking for dinner before the show? Make a reservation with one of Centenary Stage Company's [theatre partners](#).

Purchase tickets for Centenary Stage Company [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE SERIES



Tartuffe **Feb. 16–March 3**

Molière's classic comic romp of greed, hypocrisy, and scandal is just as relevant today as it was in 1664 when it was first performed (and banned).



Backwards, Forwards, Back **April 4–14**

When a soldier returns from war carrying the ghosts of their tour, they're faced with a sobering decision: Address their

alarming PTSD with virtual reality therapy or risk losing access to their family forever. Can this new technology recalibrate the brains and bodies of wounded soldiers?

NEXTSTAGE REPERTORY

NEXTstage Repertory is the all-student performance division of Centenary University's Theatre Department.



Romeo & Juliet **Feb. 1–11**

Two young people fall in love, but are doomed as Shakespeare's timeless tale of star-crossed lovers comes alive on the Centenary stage.



The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical **April 18–28**

As the half-blood son of a Greek god, Percy Jackson has newly discovered powers

he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, and a mythology textbook's worth of monsters on his trail.

WINTER THAW MUSIC FEST AND CONCERT SERIES



Louis, Louis, Louis **Jan. 13**

Five-time Grammy winner Jumaane Smith celebrates the origins of jump blues and jazz.



Reverie Road **Jan. 20**

Reverie Road weaves the roots of Irish musical traditions with new departures and curated pieces including distilled airs, continental waltzes, and upbeat reels and jigs.



Rosaway **Jan. 27**

Distinctly French, somewhat theme-tune-style, and a whole lot of groovy, this four-piece group from Paris is a blend of past and present.



Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba **Feb. 3**

Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba makes dance music that bridges the continental divide, blending the traditions and rhythms of

West African music with timbres of the American South.

CONCERT SERIES



The Tartan Terrors **March 14**

The Tartan Terrors are their own Celtic invasion, mixing music with traditional folklore, dance, and humor, with an arsenal featuring classic bagpipes and fiddle, drum tones, and signature guitar styles.



Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. and Ils Sont Partis Band **March 23**

This Grammy and Emmy Award winning band has performed over 2,500 shows and appeared

on a host of television appearances. The Creole cousin of jazz, zydeco music is family-festive music.



Gypsy **May 18**

Gypsy performs the greatest hits from Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac, including *Stand Back*, *Rhiannon*, *Gold Dust Woman*, *Don't Stop*, *Stop*

Dragging My Heart Around, *Silver Springs*, and many more.

Your gift makes all the difference.

Every gift to *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone* makes an immediate impact on the lives of our students. Your generosity funds new scholarships, innovative academic programs, and other initiatives that lift the future for Centenary University students.

**CENTENARY
IMPACT**

\$9 million

in scholarships awarded in fall 2023



 **CENTENARY NOW**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR COLLEGE & OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

alumni2.centenaryuniversity.edu/givenow