



CENTENARIAN



**Applied
Science U**

**Undergraduate
U**

**Graduate
U**

Short-Course U

Certification U

Reinventing Higher Education



40^C YEAR ANNIVERSARY

EOP at 40

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) celebrated its 40th anniversary at Centenary University on April 17 with a celebration at David's Country Inn. More than 180 alumni and friends turned out to mark the occasion. Led by Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion and EOP Director Devon Vialva '97/08, the EOP provides academic, social, and financial support to eligible Centenary students, producing countless student leaders and successful Centenary alumni.

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ON THE COVER

A new way to consider higher education.

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What a year it's been! Last July, I hit the ground running as the new president of Centenary, embarking on a strategic initiative to put this University on the map as a world leader for innovation. I envisioned a new kind of university that went beyond traditional higher education to embrace the needs of underserved populations who could benefit from the extensive resources on our campus.

Twelve months later, Centenary is well on its way toward achieving this goal. We have reinvented the structure of higher education to embrace a broader potential pool of students, beyond traditional college-age students and adults seeking graduate and master's degrees. My vision is based on a simple tenet: Wherever you are in life, Centenary has a place for you.

This spring, Centenary finalized several strategic partnerships that form the foundation for a new five-tiered structure to higher education: Undergraduate U and Graduate U, as well as three new categories that I call Applied Science U, Certification U, and Short-Course U. These new offerings address the Adult Learning Lifecycle (ALL) and introduce the resources of higher education to a broader pool of students, including parents, athletic coaches, veterans, and vocational students. You can read more about this in our cover story.

I firmly believe that Centenary University will become a model for higher education institutions across the

nation. Colleges and universities have considerable resources that can lift the future for all people, some of whom aren't necessarily looking for a college degree. Yet, they can still grow through some college-based programs. It's time to reinvent higher education, sharing our knowledge and resources with more folks to build a stronger society that helps people to flourish intellectually, emotionally, and professionally.

Of course, Centenary students are at the heart of our mission, and this spring Cyclone pride was everywhere. That was especially evident at Tannery Field, home of the Centenary softball team. Our Cyclones won the Atlantic East Conference (AEC) championship, earning a berth at the NCAA DIII regional round. The excitement spilled over into Centenary's commencement ceremony, with friends and family cheering as the senior members of the team received their diplomas before being escorted from the tent by the Cyclone mid-ceremony for a home playoff doubleheader. And that's not all: Centenary's women's flag football team participated in the AEC's first NCAA-level event ever, and three Cyclone wrestlers qualified to the NCAA DIII championships.

Our donors have also caught the excitement. This year, Centenary reconnected with alumni and past benefactors, and introduced our mission to a new pool of potential donors who share our ideals. The response has been tremendous, with \$1 million received in May to grow scholarship support for first-generation and economically-challenged Centenary students, launch innovative academic programs, and introduce new centers of excellence that grow Centenary's reputation.

A lot of people have contributed to this exciting year at Centenary. We have a talented administrative team, dedicated faculty, enthusiastic students, and committed donors. Together, we are working to build a new Centenary that is marked by innovation with one single purpose: to create opportunity for everyone.

There is still much more work to be done—but we're well on our way. Thank you for believing in Centenary University and our students!

Dale Caldwell, Ed.D.
President

Lift Your Voice

Meet two Centenary University students who are amplifying the voices of others to build a more engaged society.

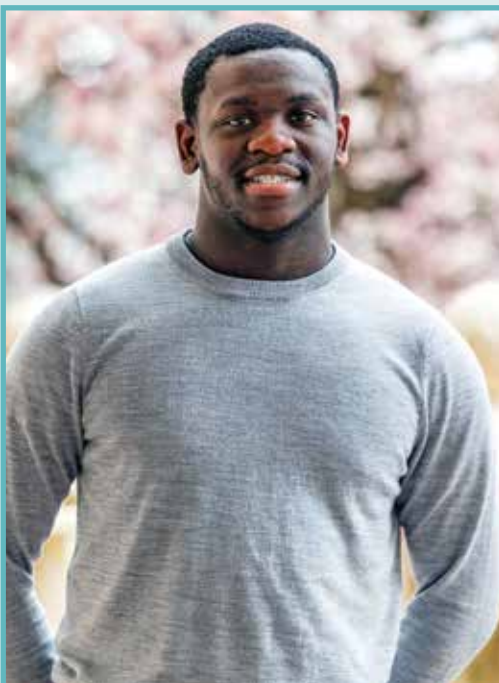


THE NEXT CHAPTER

As a small child, Kayla Diee '24 was fascinated by law and the court system. Her favorite game was playing Judge Judy, wielding a wooden spoon as a gavel to hold mock trials and mete out justice just like the television icon. Today, Diee is seeking justice in a different way: The Centenary University student has founded The Next Chapter Foundation, a literacy program for incarcerated individuals at the Warren County Correctional Center.

The English and writing major teaches a 16-week writing course for detainees that provides them with an outlet to process their experiences and emotions. Diee says, "Statistics show that people who take educational courses while they're incarcerated are over 60 percent less likely to be reincarcerated once they're released. When my students collaborate, I've never heard ill will or criticism. They're always amplifying each other, offering suggestions and ideas on how they can develop their writing."

The editor-in-chief of Centenary's student newspaper, Diee is also a photo-journalist and intern for the Prison Journalism Project, a national organization that publishes the work of incarcerated writers. She plans to pursue a career in correctional education administration: "What I hope to give back to incarcerated people is a sense of value that leads to making healthy decisions to benefit themselves and the world around them."



GET OUT THE VOTE

Leading up to last fall's general election, Osaivbie "Oso" Igiebor '25 had a constant companion: a clipboard with information on registering fellow students to vote—including a QR code to instantly connect to a voter registration site. For his commitment and persistence, Igiebor was named to the 2024 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll, which recognizes college students across the nation for their efforts to register their peers to vote and empowers colleges and universities to encourage nonpartisan student democratic engagement. Each fall, the national program runs jointly with the New Jersey Department of State's Jersey Civic Engage initiative, the Ballot Bowl. For the past two academic years, Centenary University has placed first in both the national and state titles.

Growing up, Igiebor wasn't interested in politics. That changed after the 2016 election. "I saw the impact it had on people," he recalls. "Some were happy, and some were really sad. I decided that I never want to be the reason a candidate was or wasn't elected because I didn't use my vote." With a presidential election this November, Igiebor has no plans to hang up his clipboard. Instead, the theater major will be out on campus, registering fellow Centenary students to vote: "Elections can be stressful and they can be heartbreaking. You have the power to change things if you use your vote."



A NEW HOME FOR ENTREPRENEURS



Centenary University officially launched its new Institute for Entrepreneurship during the spring semester, bringing the University's business consulting

capabilities under one roof to provide business owners and prospective entrepreneurs with coaching and guidance from Centenary faculty, credentialed consultants, and experienced business students. The institute was funded through contributions to *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*.

"The Institute for Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of my vision to establish Centenary as an intellectual leader in New Jersey and beyond," said Centenary University President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D. "This facility consolidates the University's extensive business resources to provide seamless educational opportunities and coaching to Centenary students and neighboring businesses."

Signature programs offered at the new Institute for Entrepreneurship include the Consulting Co-op, a resource for area businesses to

tap the expertise of Centenary University faculty and experienced business students; the Launch Studio, a small business resource center providing resources, training, and mentorship to transform innovative ideas into successful businesses; Centenary University Enactus, the University's national-award winning student business team; patent monetization services to leverage Centenary's patent experience to guide entrepreneurs through the patent process; and the Veteran Ventures Program, free virtual training and coaching for veterans and their family members planning to start a business.

Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship Linda Poisseroux, Ph.D., a professor of business and director of Enactus, said, "Through the Centenary University Institute for Entrepreneurship, we can expand our existing consulting relationships to collaborate with a growing number of small businesses."

Enactus and Business, Media, and Writing Department Graduate Assistant Jenna Glinko '23 said the institute is designed to enhance collaboration: "This space is intentionally designed to support creativity and innovation. It creates a real-world business climate for students and a professional setting to meet with consulting clients."

Accolades

Centenary University faculty and administrators continue to gain recognition for excellence in their field and contributions to the community. In March, Laboratory Manager Tammy Quasius was honored on the floor of the New Jersey Statehouse with a proclamation for her work on behalf of those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). A passionate advocate for those with MS, Quasius is a trustee with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, where she has also served as an activist and volunteer. In addition, leading business publication *NJBIZ* recently named Associate Professor of Business Frank Longo to its list of 2024 Leaders in Finance. The annual awards celebrate New Jersey's financial executives at all levels who contribute to the success of their companies, as well as their communities. The Council of Writing Program Administrators also selected Associate Professor of English Lisa Mastrangelo, Ph.D., and Dean of Academic Success and Advising Center Erin Anderson, Ph.D., as the recipients of the Kenneth Bruffee Award for 2023. The award recognized their article, *Examining Retention at the SLAC: "The Impact of Race, Class, and Resource Use on First-Year Writing,"* which was published in *WPA: Writing Program Administration*.





Hats Off to the Class of 2024!

Celebratory cheers rang out across campus on May 4, when Centenary University held its 149th commencement. Two ceremonies feted recipients of associate and undergraduate degrees, with Michael Tichy '24 delivering the valedictory address and Courtney Kastl '24 recognized as the recipient of the Red Knot Award. Best-selling author Rod Hairston served as the commencement speaker and was presented with a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, by Centenary University

President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D. Dr. Caldwell also awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to philanthropist Alden Siegel for the outstanding support Siegel and his wife, Dorothy "Doll" Spach Siegel '59, have provided to the University. On May 1, Centenary awarded degrees to master's and doctoral recipients. During that ceremony, Sally Klemm '23 received the Alyse Hunter Dissertation Award and addressed the graduates.



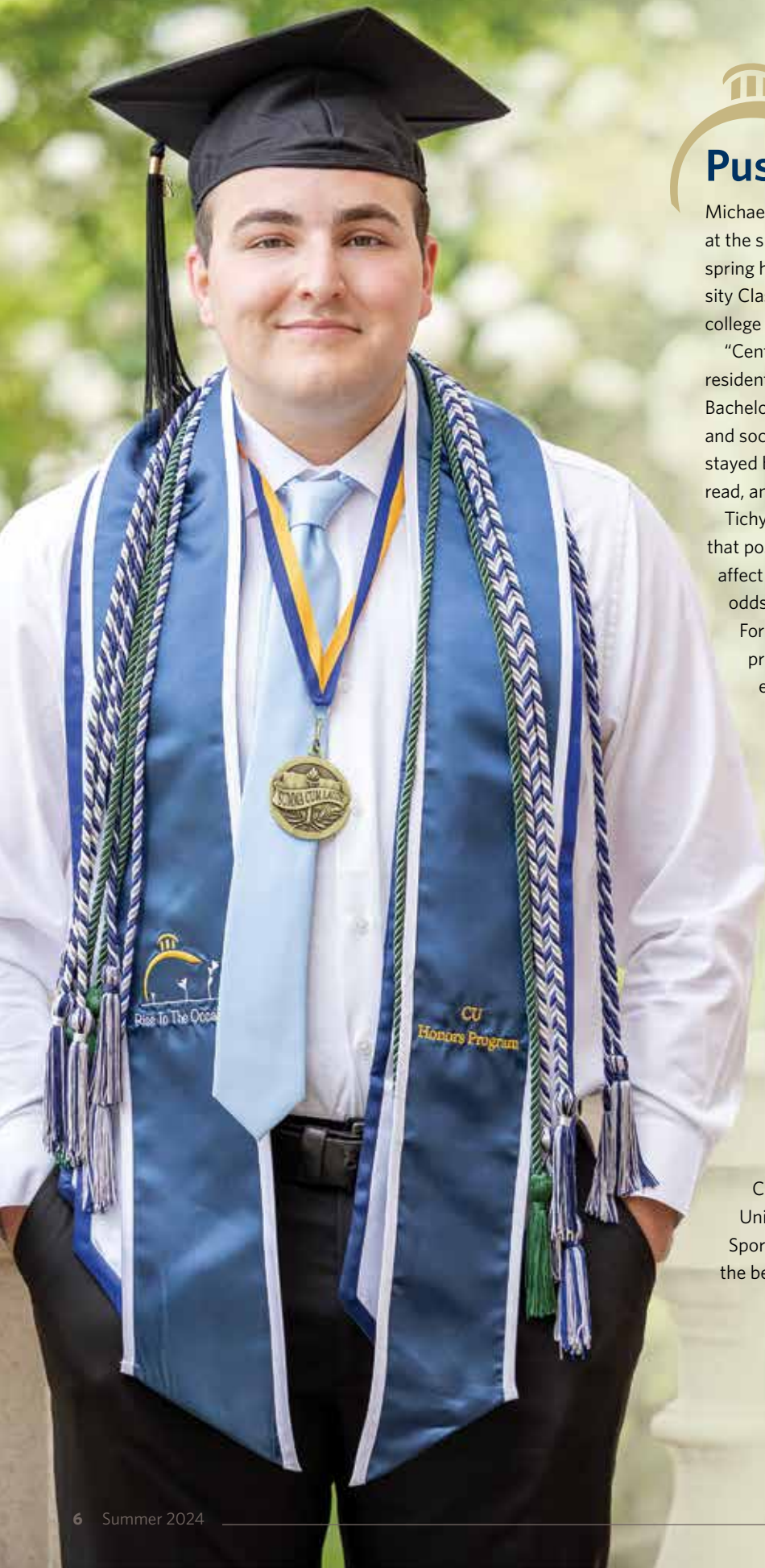
First in the World

Centenary University made history this year, awarding the world's first Master of Arts in Happiness Studies to 87 graduates who had registered for the program's first cohort nearly two years ago. Grounded in science and research, the virtual academic program is directed by Tal Ben-Shahar, Ph.D., a recognized expert in the field.

On May 1, the graduates gathered for an afternoon reception in the Ferry Building prior to the conferral of degrees that evening. Hugs and tears marked the first in-person meeting of the happiness degree candidates, with 67 flying in from across the United States, as well as Brazil, Canada, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, China, and Vietnam.

In a pre-commencement interview with New York television station PIX11, happiness degree graduate Anmarie Brogan '24, a professional coach and organizer, said, "I have been using the degree since we first started, because these tools and interventions give me the language and the science to understand the challenges that my clients are going through. So, I'm already better able to serve them. It's very powerful."

Centenary's Master of Arts in Happiness Studies currently enrolls more than 150 students, and the University has plans to expand the program to include undergraduate and doctoral degrees. Dr. Ben-Shahar told the PIX11 anchors that the field of happiness studies seeks to make a positive impact in personal lives, as well as across companies, schools, and other organizations: "Happiness studies is about developing resilience, to be better able to deal with hardships and difficulties."



Push for Excellence

Michael Tichy '24 wasn't considered a top student academically at the small high school he attended in Pennsylvania. Yet, this spring he graduated as the valedictorian of the Centenary University Class of 2024 with a 3.9 grade point average—completing his college degree in just three years.

"Centenary was a new beginning for me," said Tichy, a resident of Effort, Pa., who graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and minors in psychology and sociology. In his valedictory address, Tichy detailed how he stayed back a year in elementary school because he couldn't yet read, and in high school, didn't make the National Honor Society.

Tichy is a first-generation college student, a designation that poses significant hurdles for students and can sometimes affect future success. He was determined to change those odds, for himself and other first-gen students at Centenary.

For his Centenary University Honors Program capstone project, Tichy studied factors that shape the college experience for first-gen students and was the driving force in establishing a Centenary University chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha—also referred to as Tri Alpha—the national honor society for first-gen students.

Through his research, Tichy found that first-gen students often lack financial resources and confidence, choose less selective colleges, and have lower GPAs and graduation rates than peers who had a parent attend college. He decided to turn his first-gen status into his biggest strength: "Being a first-gen student has shaped who I am, not only academically, but my morals and values as a person. I really felt that I had to prove myself. That's why I became passionate about bringing Tri Alpha to Centenary."

In addition to becoming an academic leader he was very involved in campus life, including serving as a resident assistant and member of the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) equestrian team and the Psi Chi Honor Society. Tichy plans to attend Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania to earn a Master of Science in Sport and Performance Psychology: "Honestly, Centenary is the best place ever. There's a real push for excellence here."



No Doubts



Melinda Bara '24 has always wanted to be an equine veterinarian. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Animal Health: Pre-vet Track from Centenary, Bara is well on her way to achieving her dream with an acceptance to Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. During Bara's first year at Centenary, she immediately

began working in the barn alongside Jesslyn Bryk-Lucy, DVM, assistant professor of equine studies and the University's resident veterinarian. Later, the Cicero, NY, resident landed a job as a veterinary technician at an equine hospital. At Centenary, Bara was an Honors Program member, co-captain of the Hunter/Jumper Team, and Student Government Association officer: "From day one, Dr. Jesslyn never had any doubts in my ability to go to veterinary school. It's been really nice to have a veterinarian have so much confidence in me."




Lasting Impact



Growing up in an urban area, Christopher Encarnacion '24 knew that young people often face pressure to engage in self-destructive activities. To help change that trajectory, the Washington Heights, NY, resident founded the Youth Sports Access Program, a nonprofit that provides opportunities for youth to grow through activities that promote teamwork and leadership

development. He and fellow members of the University's competitive business team, Enactus, collected sports equipment for underserved youth and presented the Youth Sports Access Program at this spring's national Enactus competition. With a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Social Media Marketing, Encarnacion has big plans to grow his nonprofit: "I want to dedicate myself to building this up as far as it can go. I am passionate about making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of young people, families, and communities."



Expanding Horizons



Miron Miller '24 first enrolled at Centenary to play baseball and study accounting. Four years later, he's done both—and a whole lot more. The Trenton, NJ, resident graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and the connections he needs to begin a coaching career with the Philadelphia Phillies MLB Urban Youth Academy and Georgian

Court University. Someday, he'd also like to earn his CPA. A member of the EOP, Miller quickly emerged as a campus leader, serving three years as co-captain of the baseball team and volunteering in the local community. A little-known fact—revealed only after commencement—is that Miller was also the Centenary Cyclone: "Learning to reach out to other people is one of the biggest things I cherish about Centenary. I feel like I'm in a good spot right now."



New Beginning



Several years ago, Josephine Falcicchio '24 was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease that causes progressive vision and hearing loss. After reevaluating her career options, Falcicchio enrolled at Centenary, and at age 60, graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work. The Sandyston, NJ, resident found plenty of support on campus from faculty and fellow students, as well as the University's

Disabilities Services Office and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which provides academic, social, and financial assistance to eligible students. Falcicchio excelled, making the Dean's List, gaining induction into four honor societies, and receiving the Distinguished Scholar Award from the State of New Jersey: "I have attended several colleges since graduating high school, and Centenary University is the first that made me feel that my success was as important to them as it is to me."



Reinventing Higher Education



Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., hit the ground running when he assumed the presidency of Centenary University. One year later, his strategic vision has expanded educational opportunities. The result: Innovative new offerings and a growing reputation as a world-class university that lifts the future for everyone.

“I call my plan ‘Innovative Education for Everyone,’” explained Dr. Caldwell, who celebrated his first-year anniversary at Centenary on July 1. “Frankly, more colleges and universities across the nation should be thinking this way. Collectively, we need to adapt our programs to a broader audience. At Centenary, we’ve restructured to become a resource for students far beyond the scope of traditional college education.”

At the heart of Dr. Caldwell’s initiative is positioning Centenary as an educational hub providing learning opportunities to traditional college-age and graduate students, as well as people not widely represented on college campuses. As a result, Centenary has introduced a new tiered structure informing five levels of higher education called the Adult Learning Lifecycle (ALL)—Undergraduate U and Graduate U, along with three new areas called Certification U, Short-Course U, and Applied Science U.

A host of partnerships with educational leaders locally, as well as across the United States and abroad, has translated into a full menu of short-course and vocation-to-college programs introduced at an almost dizzying pace. “Dr. Caldwell inspires us to think big and models the hustle we need to get there,” noted Robert Battistini, Ph.D., interim vice president of academic affairs. “Faculty and staff feel empowered to bring their best selves—creative, intellectual, compassionate, justice-minded—and to imagine what a university could be in the 21st century. Dr. Caldwell challenges us, but he’s just as quick to affirm and learn from us. So it’s an exciting time to be at Centenary. Together, we’re shaping a new future for Centenary University.”

The Adult Learning Lifecycle



Applied Science U

Flexible academic programs that provide

pathways and encouragement for vocational students and others to earn a Centenary University certification or bachelor's degree.

Centenary University at Ideal Institute of Technology opens the door for South Jersey students facing societal challenges to earn a salary while working toward a bachelor's degree. The unique partnership offers a clear pathway for vocational students enrolled at Ideal to continue their education at Centenary and earn a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, with a concentration in radio and television or film studies; Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Accounting; or Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. (Meet Centenary's first vocational student to enroll through the partnership in Meet the Centenarian, inside back cover.)

In addition, through the partnership Centenary can tap the expertise and resources of Ideal Institute of Technology to offer courses in robotics, AI (artificial intelligence), and other disciplines that are in great demand in the marketplace today.



Undergraduate U

Expanded opportunities for college-age students who face

financial and other challenges to earn a Centenary University degree.

Centenary NOW: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone

is an \$8 million capital campaign announced last fall by Dr. Caldwell, primarily to increase scholarship support for college students and working adults facing economic challenges. To date, the campaign has reached more than half its goal, with donors stepping up to create new scholarships for first-generation college students and nurses.

The Working Degree Program was launched last fall to provide discounted tuition for adults working full time who enroll at Centenary to earn a Working Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Working Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Working Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and Working Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentrations in accounting, data analytics, management, marketing, social media marketing, and sustainable practices. The program also includes a Working Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts.



Graduate U

Extending Centenary University's highly-successful Master of

Arts in Happiness Studies to all levels of education, including the world's first Doctor of Happiness Studies.

The Human Flourishing Continuum is part of a broader academic plan to extend the success of Centenary's Master of Arts in Happiness Studies—the first program of its kind in the world—throughout all levels of Centenary's curriculum. The University plans to launch a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in happiness studies next spring, followed by six master's concentrations within the field several months later. The continuum will culminate in Centenary offering the world's first Doctor of Happiness Studies launching in fall 2025.

The plan builds on the success of Centenary's Education Continuum, which offers a seamless path for educators to earn certifications, as well as bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at Centenary.

Centenary University's new tiered academic approach introduces the benefits of higher education to a broader pool of students.



Certification U

New and expanded certificate offerings support both

personal and professional growth.

Ignite Business Partners has partnered with Centenary to offer the International Coaching Federation Executive Coaching Certification Course. The University also plans to partner with Ideal Institute of Technology on several technology certification programs.

In addition, growing partnerships with public school districts bring certification programs onsite at New Jersey schools to create a seamless path for teachers to earn certifications. In June, Centenary announced a new partnership with Dover Public Schools to bring ESL (English-as-a-Second-Language) certification onsite in Dover. Commonly referred to as MLE (Multilingual Learners of English), the program has already enrolled a large cohort of Dover teachers, who have the opportunity to stack credits to earn a Master of Education in Literacy Instruction with six additional classes, and after that, a supervisor certificate with three more classes. The University is currently negotiating to expand onsite education programs to other school districts.



Short-Course U

A host of thought-provoking non-credit workshops designed

to develop intellectual, emotional, and career growth. Several distinct partnerships shape Centenary's short-course learning programs.

Growth-U is a national leader in online personal development courses that maximize individual potential, enhance mental health and mindset, and foster a dynamic personal vision. Offered through Centenary in partnership with Growth-U, a series of self-paced workshops for people of all ages are reasonably priced and prepare high school students and their parents for the college process; foster peak performance in athletes, coaches, parents, and supportive adults; and cultivate successful habits, leadership, and a positive emotional state in working professionals and other adults.

Veteran Ventures Program (VVP) provides free entrepreneurship training and coaching through Centenary University for veterans and their families. In eight training sessions, seasoned entrepreneurs and industry leaders guide participants through the process of conducting a feasibility study for their business idea, developing a comprehensive business plan, and presenting their plan to potential investors and the public. Participants also receive 10 months of free business review and coaching by industry leaders.



Brand Refresh

The excitement generated by Dr. Caldwell's strategic initiatives has framed a new approach for admissions efforts at Centenary University, sharpening the focus on meeting the individual needs of students. Launched under the umbrella concept of a new positioning statement, We CU, the campaign offers concrete benefits to potential Centenary students.

This year, the University introduced new scholarships for first-generation students and those facing financial challenges, and recently announced a tuition freeze for the upcoming academic year. In addition, the new Cyclone Concierge program offers significant benefits to incoming students who submit their deposits by specified deadlines.

While the campaign is still in the rollout phase, potential Centenary students seem to be taking notice, according to Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Karolina Wolfe: "This year's deposits from incoming first-year students are significantly outpacing last year. I'm certain that we will meet or exceed our enrollment goals for fall 2024."

The Energy is Contagious

The amazing transformation underway at Centenary University has been fueled in large part by the generosity of our donors. Re-energized by the bold strategic vision of President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D, both longtime and new donors have stepped up to fund scholarships for first-gen and adult students, innovative new facilities like the Centenary University Center for Entrepreneurship, and create exciting educational opportunities that serve a broader student population.

\$2,295,886
total dollars raised

\$1 million+
raised in May '24



\$2,545

average gift. Gifts of all sizes add up to support today's Centenary students.

\$100,000

contributed by an anonymous donor for scholarships benefiting first-gen and economically-challenged Centenary students.

269

first-time donors contributed to Centenary University this year. Welcome to the Cyclone giving family!

902

total gifts contributed in 2023-2024.

We Need You!

Centenary has the opportunity to raise **\$1 million** in scholarships for Overlook Hospital RNs to enroll in the University's BSN program.



Through the Reeves Foundation 2-for-1 Challenge, Centenary must raise \$667,000 to unlock an additional \$333,000 from the Reeves Foundation. Help us reach our goal! Scan the QR code to make your gift.



Donors and friends gathered at Perona Farms in Andover, NJ, on June 6 for Centenary University's annual scholarship event. The evening raised almost \$100,000 to fund unrestricted student aid through *Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone*. The capital campaign seeks to raise \$8 million over two years to provide tuition assistance for students, especially first-generation college students, as well as innovative academic programs and stronger community partnerships.

"Since its launch last fall, *Centenary Now* has significantly expanded educational opportunities for traditional college students, as well as veterans, business leaders, and other adult learners," said Jordan Glatt, vice president for advancement and special assistant to the president. "At this scholarship event, and throughout the past academic year, donors have renewed their commitment to Centenary, our students, and the strategic vision of President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D."

At the event, Centenary presented the Gold Dome Award—the University's highest honor—to three individuals whose extraordinary vision and dedication have advanced the mission of the University: Carol Valentine Allen '72/74, a member of the Centenary University Board of Trustees; Shirley Wilson McCune '50/76, former president

of the Centenary University Alumni Association Executive Board; and Laurie Rapisardi, executive director of the Hackettstown Business Improvement District (BID).

A member of the Centenary University Board of Trustees, Allen received the first Bachelor of Arts ever conferred by Centenary. She is a longtime Centenary supporter, serving as past president of the Alumni Association Executive Board and co-chairing the University's sesquicentennial celebration in 2017.

McCune was a member of the Centenary Board of Trustees for 21 years, and at the time, was the only woman appointed to the executive committee. Earlier, she was treasurer of the Centenary alumni association's northern New Jersey chapter, as well as president and secretary of the national alumni association.

As executive director of the Hackettstown Business Improvement District (BID), Rapisardi has collaborated with Centenary to advance the University and the community. An advisory board member to Centenary's competitive business team, Enactus, she has fostered consulting relationships between Centenary students and area business owners.





Making History

In its inaugural season, Centenary University's women's flag football program was one of four Atlantic East Conference (AEC) teams to participate in the first NCAA-level flag football event with host Immaculata University, as well as Neumann University and Marymount University. While the teams currently participate as club sports, the AEC—18 in partnership with the NFL and RCX Sports, along with support from the Philadelphia Eagles, has announced a plan to be the first NCAA conference to offer varsity women's flag football beginning next spring.

Women's flag football is one of the nation's fastest growing sports, with more than 11,000 participants in 2018-19. Trailblazing Cyclones comprising Centenary's first roster included Cameron Fulcher '26, Sedem Atadja '28, Senam Atadja '25, and Sofia Mendez '27.

Representing at NCAAs

The Centenary University wrestling team is a perennial presence at the NCAA national championship, this year sending three Cyclones to the competition in La Crosse, Wis. NCAA qualifiers Danny Haws '26, Xavier Pena '24, and Keevon Berry '24 were all dominant for the Cyclones; in their respective weight classes, each earned national recognition this season from the National Wrestling Coaches Association, d3wrestle.com, and The Open Mat. Coach John Garriques's squad ranked as high as 12th in the nation this year.



Equestrian Excellence

Centenary University was well-represented at IHSA (International Horse Show Association) Nationals in early May, with eight team members qualifying to compete at the prestigious event in Tryon, N.C. Three Cyclones—Amelia Gugino '24, Meghan Fitzpatrick '24, and Ben Hoban '24—opted to skip commencement on May 4 to ride for the University one last time. They had a great competition, with Gugino placing fifth in intermediate fences, Fitzpatrick sixth in limit flat, and Hoban sixth for the Cacchione Cup.

Also riding well for Centenary was Bec Kaplan '25—first place, open flat, and seventh place, open fences—who was also the high point flat rider of the show. Kaplan received an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) award presented by IEA Membership Marketing Coordinator Jennifer Eaton. Other Cyclones who excelled were Annemieke Forte '25, seventh place, limit flat; Caroline Mancini '25, ninth place, open flat; Victoria Varella '26, third place, novice flat; and Aislinn Bermingham '27, eighth place, intermediate flat.



Championship Season

The Centenary softball team emerged as this year's Atlantic East Conference (AEC) champions, earning them a berth at the NCAA DIII regional round. With a conference record of 10-2, the Cyclones entered the AEC tournament as the top seed. Jaelynn Miller '25 was the AEC's Pitcher of the Year and joined Toni Cacopardo '24 as First Team All-Conference picks. Centenary's coaches—Kim Broking, Len Kunz, and Justine Stefura—were collectively named the AEC Coaching Staff of the Year.

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.



Is a printed Centenarian important to you?

Please email Elizabeth.Freeman@centenaryuniversity.edu to be added to our mailing list.

1949

Florence Austermuhl Larson writes: "I had my 95th birthday on May 2. Right now, I am well physically, for which I am grateful. My sons are always going on trips, but I no longer join them. I see my grandsons and three great-grandsons several times a year. I am still active in my church and keep in touch with friends by phone. I walk and ride a stationary bike. I have been in touch with two classmates. "I talked to **Carol Brown Robinson** on the phone, and she is well. She sits with others in her building twice a day for meals. She watches the programs on TV and Saturday night movies. She enjoys walking outside and keeps up with her daughter by telephone and her grandson, who is 25. Carol enjoys reading."

Betty Poppele Barrett writes: "I am still in my house and enjoying life with my family. I keep busy with some house projects that need to be done. My two granddaughters announced the happy news that they are expecting, Amy in October and Emily in November. Emily lives nearby and has three boys. So, I am thinking 'pink.' They both will take the test to learn the gender. Life is good."

1956

Maybeth (Curtiss) Lyman writes: "I loved my time at Centenary. I sang six hours a day in quartet, glee club, choir, and radio. I also sang at graduation. After college, I worked at CBS, which was my goal. I worked for Phil Silvers and a bit for Ed Sullivan. My dad was also on the board at Centenary; he and I even wrote my

class song together. I recently moved to Tennessee to be close to my daughter and am loving the warm weather."

1962

Jean Hayes, Ph.D., is a licensed marriage and family therapist in California. She recently accepted a new position as clinical director and supervisor of a substance abuse treatment center in Sonoma County. As a longtime specialist in treating individuals, their partners, and families with addictive disorders, Dr. Hayes is delighted to join a community of seasoned treatment professionals, where she also supervises pre-licensed therapists in training.

1964

Vicki Lynne Morgan is the president of Russmor Mentoring Group, serving as a business development advisor in the areas of guerrilla marketing and selling, strategic business presentations, and training programs. She earned an Associate of Arts in Secretarial Sciences from Centenary. Vicki writes: "With an excellent education and no specific career goals, I landed my first position as executive secretary at McNeil Laboratories, a division of Johnson & Johnson. Since then, as a lifelong learner with a keen desire to help business owners and entrepreneurs, I broke several glass ceilings and literally helped thousands to achieve their business goals." A resident of Washington, NJ, Vicki and her husband of 58 years, Jim, are the parents of two sons and have four grandchildren.

1968

Peggy O'Connor co-authored the book, *The Perpetual Pivot: Ministry in the Pandemic and Beyond* (Wipf and Stock, December 2023), with Susan Cartmell. The authors interviewed 53 clergy members from different denominations around the country about how they kept their houses of worship operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, when worshipers were unable to gather in person. The book is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and several other platforms.

1993

Janice Page is the principal of PK Surroundings, a design firm specializing in fine kitchens and interiors based in Exeter, NH. With more than 20 years' experience in residential interior design and space planning, she takes pride in being highly involved in all projects and raising the bar in design to meet or exceed the expectations of her clients. A certified kitchen designer and allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers, Janice earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Centenary and is a graduate of the American College in London. She enjoys traveling with her husband, renovating their 1920s home, hiking, supporting the Cocheco Valley Humane Society, giving back to the community, and continuing the restoration of her dad's 1934 Tudor Sedan.

1998

Haiyan "Grace" Liu is a high school teacher in China. Haiyan writes: "I'm happy and healthy. After finishing my graduate studies, I returned to China. I did not attend the graduation ceremony at Centenary in May the following year due to the distance between the two countries. I have regretted that decision for my whole life. But Centenary had the graduation certificate delivered to me. In those days, Centenary kept very close relationships and cooperation with the school where I worked."

2000

Jeanmarie Bozza Lieb recently wrote to express her gratitude for her Centenary University degree: "I am thankful for the excellent education that I received at Centenary. I was a double major and a split minor. The local schools respect Centenary and recognize the excellent teaching program you have. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

2002

County College of Morris has named **George Milonas** to its Board of Trustees. He is the director of corporate security and investigations for Avis Budget Group in Parsippany and previously served as a vice president with JP Morgan Chase, where he worked in the Global Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Department. Milonas holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology: Criminal Justice from Centenary University.

2012

Bridget McCann is the director of athletics communications at Washington University in St. Louis, where she's worked since 2021. A former Cyclone women's basketball player, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a concentration in print journalism, as well as a minor in marketing, from Centenary. Bridget and her wife, Sara, were married on June 29, 2023. They recently bought a home in St. Louis, where they live with their dogs, Rosa and Benson.

2014

Stefanie Taggart '14/21 is currently the director of admissions enrollment management at Centenary University. She and her fiancée, Francis Walsh, were married in April and were expecting a baby boy in June.



2015

Dana Cifelli has been promoted to vice president of internal communications at Cenlar FSB, the nation's leading mortgage loan sub-servicer. A strategic marketing and communications leader, Cifelli worked at Verizon for more than a decade before joining Cenlar in 2021. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Centenary University.

Daniel Graham is director of athletic communications at Susquehanna University. Prior to his appointment in February 2023, he served as associate director of athletics at The Citadel, one of the nation's oldest military colleges, and as the first sports information director at the State University of New York (SUNY) Delhi.

2016

The Allamuchy School District recently named **Megan Schmidt** as one of its Educators of the Year. A school counselor for grades pre-K through 3 at Mountain Villa School, Schmidt earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from Centenary University.



Allan Jordan works for Highway Traffic Control, a firm that specializes in traffic safety. He recently completed his sixth year as an assistant wrestling coach at Saint Joseph High School in Metuchen, where he assisted in reviving the program. Since then, the team has made the state sectional semi-finals and won the county title twice, won the district three times, had two place winners at the state tournament, and earned a top 20 ranking in the last two seasons. Allan is also proud to announce the birth of his son, Easton, on Jan. 18.



Amanda Coons Wood and her husband, Ryan, were married on March 29 at Pen Ryn Estate in Bensalem, Pa. The couple dated in high school and reconnected several years after college graduation, marrying five years later. They are both teachers with the Woodbridge Township School District—Amanda teaches kindergarten at Oak Tree Road School and Ryan teaches history at JFK High School, where he also coaches the ice hockey team. They enjoy spending time at their home in Woodbridge with their new puppy, as well as at the family camper at Panther Lake.

2017

The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine in Dublin, Ireland, held its White Coat Ceremony on March 5, signifying the transition into clinical practice for the Class of 2025, which includes **Ariana Palmieri**. She and her classmates have now entered their final year of clinical rotations.



Morgan Haller is an assistant director of graduate admissions at Villanova University, where she served as a graduate student ambassador and member of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society. Morgan graduated from Villanova in May with a Master of Arts in history, and this spring presented two historiography papers at conferences at Villanova and Rowan University. She has been accepted into the Moravian Archives German Script course, where she will work intensively with 18th century German texts. This fall, she will begin the application process for doctoral programs in history. A member of the equestrian and cross country teams at Centenary, Morgan also serves as an assistant cross country and track coach at Notre Dame de Namur Academy in Villanova.



2018

Katherine O'Connell works with the Ocean County Sheriff's Office as a latent print examiner in the Crime Scene Unit. She processes, analyzes, and identifies latent print evidence collected from crime scenes and has testified as an expert witness on the subject. As the first vice president for the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Identification, Katherine works with crime scene personnel across New Jersey to provide training opportunities and community forums to promote best practices in the field of forensics. She is also a certified instructor teaching recruits at the Ocean County Police Academy. Katherine earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in forensic science from Centenary, as well as a master's in criminal investigation from the University of New Haven. In July, Katherine will marry her fiancé, P.J., a US Army major in the Field Artillery Branch.



2019

Lucile Vigouroux is the owner of ProPulsion Equine PEMF, LLC, which provides wellness solutions for equine athletes. One of her clients, Ladriano Z, will participate in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games this summer. The horse is owned and ridden by Daniel Bluman. In addition, three articles written by Lucile were selected to receive equine media awards from *American Horse Publications* (AHP) in the Horse Care and Service to the Horse Industry categories. Lucile writes: "For the past five years, my entire journalism career has depended on the generosity of 150+ equine veterinarians who have shared their time and expertise with me and our readers. It means a lot to me that my articles advocating for a sustainable future for the equine veterinary profession have earned me

and *The Horse: Your Guide to Equine Health Care* the 2023 Service to the Horse Industry AHP equine media award, both first and second place."



2020

Tatiana Garcia and **Anthony Raddi** are engaged to be married. As theater students at Centenary, they both participated in the Disney College Program, as well as study abroad in England.

The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association has named **Lindsay Gooditis, Ed.D.**, the Statewide Elementary Principal of the Year. The prestigious award recognizes Dr. Gooditis's exceptional leadership and dedication to educational excellence. The principal of Franklin Township School, she earned a Doctor of Educational Leadership from Centenary University.



After graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work from Centenary University, **Alexis Galuska Humphrey** went on to earn a Master of Social Work from Ramapo University, as well as designation as a licensed social worker (LSW). She is currently working toward licensure as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). She and her husband were married on Leap Day—Feb. 29, 2024—and chose to have their wedding photos taken at Centenary's beautiful Edward W. Seay Administration Building.



The West Milford Township School District named **Brian Kitchin** as the new district superintendent effective July 1, 2024. He holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Centenary University.

Katie (Peters) Reeves joined the admissions staff at Centenary University as a transfer enrollment counselor. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with concentrations in radio, television,

and journalism from Centenary, as well as a minor in business management. Katie was married in 2021.



2021

Centenary University has named **Chris LaBelle** head men's basketball coach. A standout Cyclone while playing for Centenary, LaBelle had served as interim coach since fall 2023.

2022

Gabbi Flachs is the owner of Mathnasium in Flemington, NJ, an educational resource that creates personalized learning plans within an engaging and positive learning environment for students in elementary school and high school. A highly-experienced math teacher and tutor, she earned a Master of Arts in Educational Practice from Centenary University.



Centenary University's Under the Gold Dome speaker series recently featured **Craig Fleming**, who discussed his work with the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA). An environmental science major at Centenary, he began volunteering for the MWA as an undergraduate assisting in the bi-annual macroinvertebrate collection at Stephens State Park. After graduation, Craig was hired as the organization's water quality field specialist.



Haakon Mathewson, a wrestling coach with the Bangor School District in Pennsylvania, was named Coach of the Year at districts. An Academic All-American at Centenary, Mathewson previously served as an academic support coach for the Cyclone wrestling team. Cyclone Head Coach John Garriques said, "Haakon was an amazing leader while he was here and bought into our philosophy. It doesn't surprise me one bit that he is having success, as that is what we are training for—to be successful in life."



2023

Hunter Wentzel has been accepted to the highly competitive University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Centenary University and has worked as a dental technician at Geisinger health system in Pennsylvania.

2024

Alstede Farms has named **Sarah Alstede** and her sister, Rebekah Alstede Modery, co-owners of the family business, making the farm in Chester, NJ, a majority woman-owned business. The recipient of an Associate of Science in Equine Studies from Centenary University, she now serves as assistant retail operations manager, working to oversee operations while also organizing agritourism efforts.



In Memoriam

Phyllis Des Marais Arkett '48 11/22/2023	Selina McAllister '07 12/28/2023	Charlotte McFarlin Suffredini '61 . . 3/16/2024
Nadia Eckstein Bohlman '74 2/27/2024	Linda Dey McDonald '62 3/26/2024	Sally Wilson Wilder '58 11/9/2023
Jean Young Feller '52 9/17/2023	Nancy Lepman McKlveen '65 11/9/2023	
Sharon Scheman Hertz '54 10/21/2023	Margaret Sauer '60 2/21/2024	



Always a Cyclone

Centenary soccer alumni returned to campus in April for a mini-reunion, facing off against current Cyclones for friendly men's and women's games. The Cyclones women's lacrosse team also played an intersquad game to the cheers of onlookers, who included members of the Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB).





Law & Order

A pair of promises made in a Centenary University classroom have resulted in a new evaluation procedure for Warren County's Washington Township Police Department. "It's pretty surprising that many police departments don't have a formal evaluation or assessment process," explained **Christopher Jones '09/22**, the Washington Township chief of police. "In today's day and age, I feel that it's an important tool to make sure that all police officers know what's expected of them. There is a standard to achieve."

When Jones first enrolled in the University's Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration program, he had just completed leadership training through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Midway through the master's program, he took a course called Employee Evaluation and Development taught by Jeffrey Carter, Ph.D., director of Centenary's master's program. One assignment required students to examine their employers' method of assessing workers. Jones's department had no system, so Dr. Carter challenged him to create one. Then a police sergeant, Jones promised

that, if ever promoted to chief, he would implement best practices from his research. In return, Dr. Carter pledged to train Jones' staff to administer the new method.

The intensive project took several years to complete, and during that time, Jones was promoted first to deputy chief, and then to chief. Soon after his swearing in, he began to lay the groundwork to implement an employee evaluation system. A team of volunteers from within the police department helped Jones to refine his vision, which he expects will continue to evolve. True to his word, Dr. Carter visited the department for two days last January to work with Washington Township police to roll out the program.

The Washington Township Police Department employs 27 full-time officers, as well as seven school resource officers and several civilian office workers. The new process developed by Jones calls for assessing each employee twice a year using 15 metrics, including knowledge of the job, proactive approach, completion of daily tasks, interactions with the public and co-workers,



Washington Township Chief of Police Christopher Jones '09/22 leveraged his Centenary master's degree to develop a new procedure to evaluate officers.

appearance and hygiene, and more. An additional eight fields are applied to supervisors in the department.

"We have a great group of officers in Washington Township," said Jones, who earned an undergraduate degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice from Centenary. "As a leader within this agency, I want to make sure we're all on the same page. Now, every officer receives direct input from their supervisor about how to grow in their position and determine if they're ready for the next level in their career."

Jones credits Dr. Carter with ensuring that he stayed the course during extensive research and development. Through meetups at law enforcement conventions and frequent telephone calls, Dr. Carter continued to encourage his former student, even after graduation two years ago. "Dr. Carter always emphasized that he'd be there to help implement this program," Jones said. "It was one of the biggest selling points for me to get it done."

For his part, Dr. Carter is proud of his former student. A retired police lieutenant with 25 years of experience in the field, he said, "I'm pleased to note that Chief Jones was a model graduate student and is an asset to the agency he leads. This is a perfect example of Centenary alumni putting their graduate education into real-world use."



Sgt. Carlos Ferreiro '19

Learn from the Best

Students studying criminal justice at Centenary University learn from some of the best in the business—including alumni who speak on campus as part of a course called Careers in Criminal Justice taught by Douglas Compton, Ed.D., assistant professor of criminal justice.

This spring, Morris Plains Police Chief **Michael Koroski '01/15** and Sgt. **Carlos Ferreiro '19** of the Readington Police Department's K-9 unit joined a cadre of criminal justice professionals who visited Centenary to encourage students to explore job opportunities in a range of professions, as well as issues facing law enforcement today. Other speakers this semester represented the Mount Olive police department, Morris County Sheriff's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Jersey Department of Corrections, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, New Jersey Parole Board, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and SA Railroad Police.

A high point of the course is an annual visit from New Jersey State Police Superintendent Col. Patrick J. Callahan, who described his duties and those of the nearly 3,200 enlisted law enforcement officers—as well as the department's 1,450 civilian members—who work as New Jersey state troopers. He discussed the wide range of duties troopers handle, from routine traffic stops to planning security for major events like the 2014 Super Bowl and the upcoming FIFA World Cup in 2026, and working with the FBI on terrorist investigations. Callahan said, "The places this job can take you are pretty special. This is the most noble profession on the face of the Earth and I'm proud to do it."

A retired police officer, Dr. Compton started teaching the course four years ago. He was determined that his students would learn from the best: "Col. Callahan and I had never met, but I sent him an email inviting him to speak to the class. Within six minutes my phone rang and Col. Callahan was on the other end asking how he could help. Since then, he has visited Centenary every year, giving our students a chance to learn what it's like to be a New Jersey state trooper from a true professional."



Col. Patrick J. Callahan

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni & Family Day

Oct. 5, 2024
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Join us on campus for a fun-filled day celebrating Centenary.

Tour our beautiful campus and equestrian center, reconnect with old friends, and tailgate before cheering on your favorite Cyclone teams.

Plus, enjoy presentations by Centenary faculty and the Enactus team, afternoon tea in the Seay front parlours, wine and chocolate at the President's House, and much more!

**REGISTER
HERE.**



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- Sandy C. Manzini '11
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- Janet Kipp Tribus '62

Second Chance

Taryn Thompson's journey to college has been anything but traditional. Losing his parents at age 5 started a downward spiral that led to a life on the streets, and eventually, incarceration. "Opportunities for me were real limited," said Thompson, who became a father at just 15. "The streets were the only opportunity my community provided for me."

This fall, the Pleasantville, NJ, resident will begin his undergraduate studies at Centenary University through a new work-based college program offered through a partnership between the University and Ideal Institute of Technology, which provides vocational training and a salary to students seeking career opportunities. Thompson shared his story at an inaugural luncheon on May 22 marking the opening of Centenary University at Ideal, which brings Centenary University classes onsite at Ideal Institute's Pleasantville location. The partnership offers a clear pathway for vocational students like Thompson to earn a bachelor's degree at Centenary.

One of the first graduates of Ideal Institute, Thompson used his vocational training to begin building a career, first in carpentry and construction, and later as co-owner of a food truck business and as an Ideal Institute impact liaison providing guidance to current students: "Without Ideal, I honestly don't even know where I would be. Now, I'm showing people that their second chance is right in front of them."

Centenary University President Dale Caldwell, Ed.D., said students like Thompson and the University's partnership with Ideal Institute represent a shift in higher education, with a broader emphasis on providing transformational programs beyond those serving traditional college-age students. At Centenary, that has translated into a greater emphasis on boosting opportunity for first-generation and non-traditional students. Dr. Caldwell noted that often, people facing challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and pervasive crime lack clear channels and financial resources to consider higher education: "As a society, we need to think about the privileges we have and sharing those privileges with others. Colleges and universities need to adapt their programs to a broader educational audience. Many of today's Centenary students didn't think they could go to college. They're working two, and sometimes three, jobs. Yet when they graduate, they're superstars."

For his part, Thompson is looking forward to starting his college classes while continuing to work, and is now encouraging his son to enroll in the program. He said, "I want my son to go on this journey with me. My dream is for us to graduate Centenary University together."





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Let's Keep the Momentum Going!

Centenary University accomplished so much last year, thanks to our generous donors. You can keep the momentum going with a gift to The Centenary Fund. In this new academic year, we will expand first-gen scholarships, introduce new academic programs, and launch new Centers of Excellence.

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