

# CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE



ONE  
MISSION  
INFINITE  
POSSIBILITIES



## INSIDE:

### INAUGURATION

### BLOOMBERG FINANCIAL MARKETS LAB

### COACH CORINO, THE WINNINGEST BASKETBALL COACH IN NJ HISTORY

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**CALDWELL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE**  
**WINTER/SPRING 2022**

Caldwell University Magazine is produced for alumni and friends twice each year by the News and Media Relations Office at Caldwell University. Its goal is to provide news and information about Caldwell University's students, faculty, staff, alumni, and administration. We welcome your comments and suggestions! Please email us at [cumagazine@caldwell.edu](mailto:cumagazine@caldwell.edu).

**VICE PRESIDENT, ENROLLMENT**

**MANAGEMENT AND**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Stephen Quinn

**EDITOR**

Colette M. Liddy '13 M.A.

**WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS**

Nicole M. Burrell '09

Marion Goldstein '79

Christina Hall

Meghan Moran '07

Kelly Marsicano

Matt Netter

John Tagliaferri

Vanessa Treus

**STUDENT ASSISTANTS**

Kylee Blaney '22

Stephanie Lopez '22

**COPY EDITOR**

John Jurich

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Pushparaj Aitwal '11

Tom Salus

Alan Schindler

**DESIGN**

Graphic Imagery, Inc.

**Address comments and  
questions to:**

[cumagazine@caldwell.edu](mailto:cumagazine@caldwell.edu)  
Caldwell University Magazine

120 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006

**General information**  
[www.caldwell.edu](http://www.caldwell.edu)  
973-618-3000

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# Dear Caldwell Family,

Here we are, already into the spring semester! As we navigate through what we hope will be the last phase of the pandemic, we have much to prepare for, but we also have much to celebrate!

Last October I was thrilled to meet many of you as we gathered for Inauguration. I appreciated the community leaders, alumni, students, faculty, staff and my family who participated in the ceremony and the events of the week. With the Inauguration theme of “One Mission, Infinite Possibilities,” our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends showcased their gifts and talents and sense of community that is Caldwell at the art exhibition, lectures, community service, faculty concert and other activities.

In particular, I was grateful that many Sisters of Saint Dominic attended the ceremony and Inauguration Mass. As Archdiocese of Newark Bishop Manuel A. Cruz, D.D. (principal celebrant of the Mass) reminded me, I am standing on the shoulders of giants. I know that. I was grateful to Bishop Cruz and the other priests who celebrated the Mass.

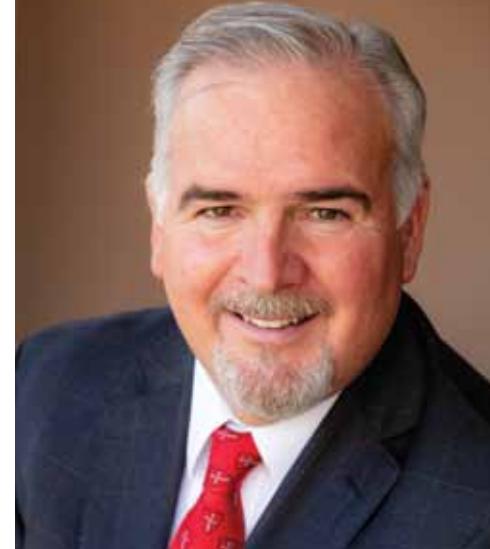
The Sisters have encouraged generations of students to believe in themselves as they pursue their dreams and vocations; we strive to carry that legacy forward even amid our challenges.

One of those alumni is Father Dominic Ciriaco '93, rector at the Theological Seminary at Catholic University of America, whose vocation was inspired by the influence of our Sisters from the time he attended St. Aloysius grammar school in Caldwell. I am sure you will enjoy reading his story in this issue.

We are happy to share with you features on faculty members Helen Antoniou McGowan of the School of Business and Computer Science, who is using her law and business background to encourage business students to reflect on social responsibility as a fundamental part of their work lives, and Rebecca Vega, of the Music Department, who combines her talent as an accomplished music artist and skilled educator to teach music, conduct the marching band and direct the wind ensemble. I had a chance to enjoy Professor Vega's work—with students in the marching band at the sprint football games—and again when my wife Kathy and I attended the Christmas Spectacular concert (at which Professor Laura Greenwald beautifully led the chorale).

You will read about Nancy Hurtz-Soyka '71, who held business positions at the United Nations including serving secretaries-general, and went on to teach English as a second language at New Jersey schools.

We have a feature on hematologist-oncologist Dr. Alisa Sokoloff '01, who cares for cancer patients at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, the graduate medical school of Hofstra University. She recalls the indelible imprint Caldwell's science faculty members left on her life when they guided her as a student far away from her homeland, a sentiment we hear often from our alumni.



We were thrilled to learn of the historic nearly \$5 million STEM grant we were awarded from the Department of Education to benefit Hispanic and low-income students. This was made possible by the work of our Office of Development and Alumni Affairs and the School of Natural Sciences. We have new staff members on board to build this program.

Three new academic undergraduate bachelor's programs are being offered starting in the fall semester: a business degree in Supply Chain Management, which we are all concerned about these days; a bachelor's degree in Communication Science and Disorders, which will prepare students for careers related to speech language pathology, and a bachelor's in Environmental Science. We are planning to seek approval for other new programs including Exercise Science.

I know you all will join me in extending a big “congrats” to Assistant Vice President/ Director of Athletics and Head Coach Mark A. Corino for becoming the all-time leader in wins for NCAA men's basketball in the state of New Jersey on Jan. 8 when he hit his 604th victory. Mark is a New Jersey legend, and Caldwell has been blessed to have him building and leading our athletics program, inspiring generations of student-athletes and staff members for over three decades.

With the spring semester underway, we look forward to seeing our spring student-athletes in action, including new teams—rugby, and acrobatics and tumbling.

Most important, we are back on campus; we are keeping our eyes on the big picture, working together and adapting when necessary to provide our students with excellence in education and sharing with them how the Catholic Dominican heritage has something very important to contribute to a world in need. As St. Catherine of Siena reminds us, “Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.” And endured we have.

I hope to see you at some of our spring (and summer!) events.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Whelan".

Matthew Whelan, Ed.D.  
President



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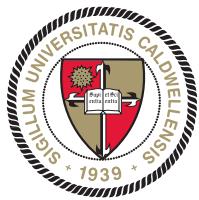
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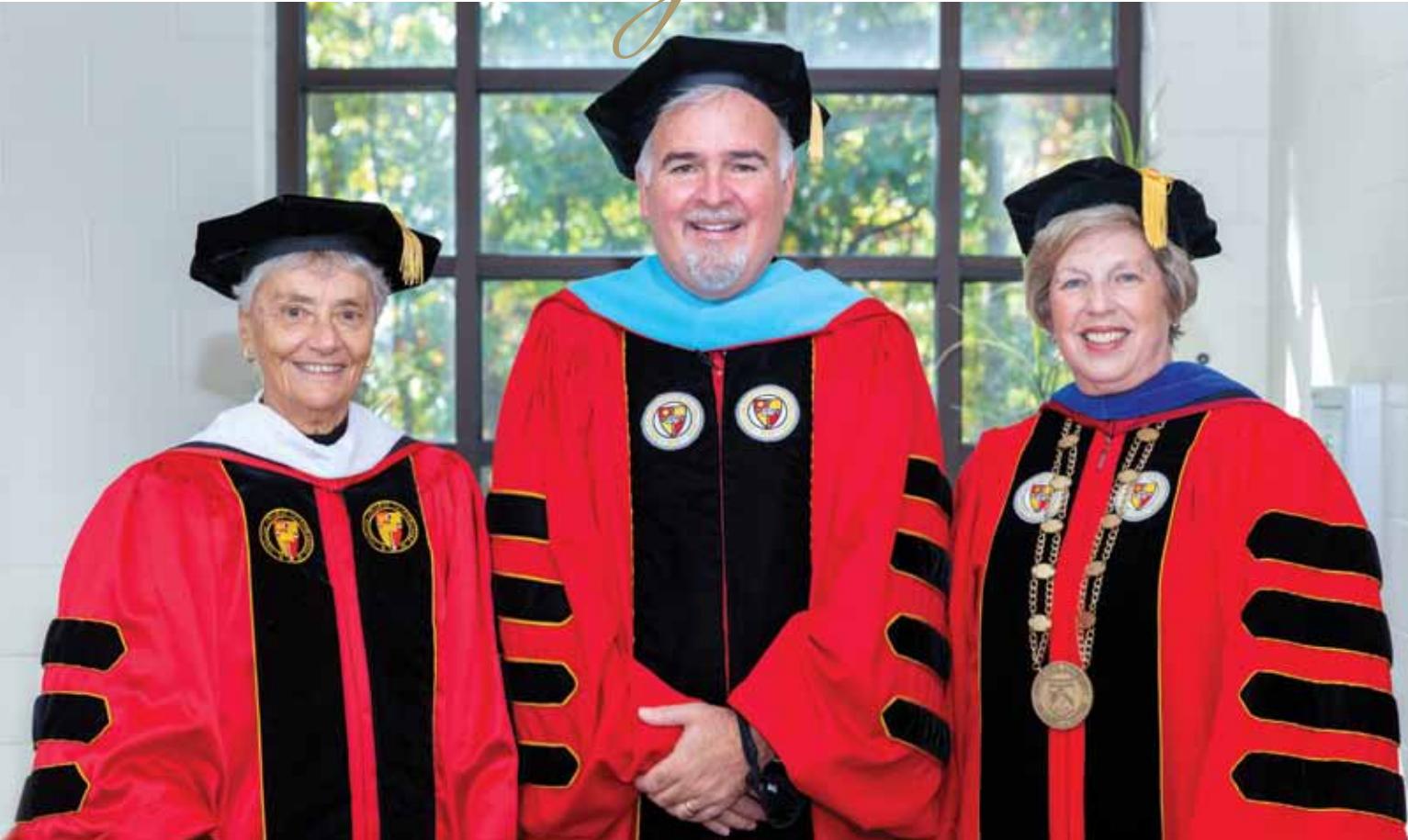
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# Inauguration



President Matthew Whelan, Ed.D., with two former presidents of Caldwell—the seventh president, Sister Patrice Werner, Ph.D., O.P., and the eighth president, Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., O.P.A.

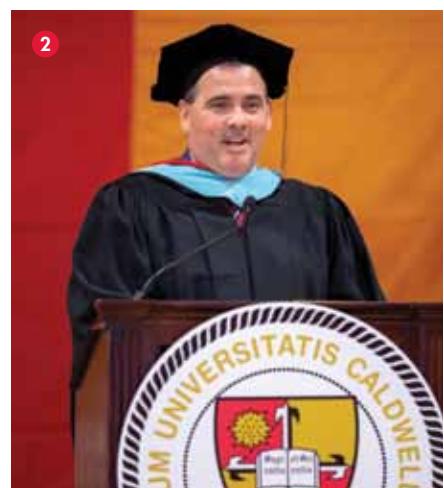
“  
Today, Sisters, we are here  
because of you,  
and we thank you for that  
and we owe you  
a debt of gratitude.

— President Whelan

## CALDWELL UNIVERSITY celebrates THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MATTHEW WHELAN

The University community celebrated the inauguration of its ninth president, Matthew Whelan, Ed.D., on Oct. 22. With the theme of “One Mission, Infinite Possibilities,” the special event honored the Sisters of St. Dominic and the legacy entrusted to Dr. Whelan, the University’s first lay male president.





**Mother Joseph's vision is,  
was and always will continue  
to be present at  
Caldwell University.**

— President Whelan

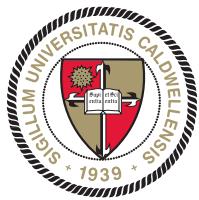


1 Linda Luciano '78, Ed.D., M.B.A., chair of the Board of Trustees, presents Dr. Whelan with the presidential chain of office.

2 Carlos Pomares '93, vice president of the Essex County Board of Commissioners, spoke of his treasured time as a CU student and offered greetings from the Essex board.

3 Sarah Whelan, Dr. and Mrs. Whelan's oldest daughter, surprises her father with a beautiful rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone" from "Carousel." Seated next to Dr. Whelan, L-R, are Brian J. Aloia, Esq., vice chair of the Board of Trustees, and Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver.

4 President Whelan with some of the Caldwell University international students who processed in their cultural attire. L to R: Aashish Wagle, Shanid Shrestha, Yaman Thapa, Prasanni Shrestha and Akwasi Osei-Du.



# Inauguration



Bishop Manuel A. Cruz, D.D., of the Newark Archdiocese prays with Dr. Whelan.

*A*n inauguration Mass was celebrated by Bishop Manuel Cruz of the Archdiocese of Newark with concelebrants Msgr. Robert Emery, Father Jim Manos, Father Andrew Njoku, Father Tom Dente and Father Bob Stagg.

Inauguration week featured activities including an art exhibition, faculty concert, community service, a student cultural showcase, Reunion 2021 and lectures on “The History and Evolution of Catholic Women’s Colleges” by Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history, and “The Future of Catholic Universities and the Role of Liberal Arts in Higher Education Today,” moderated by James Flynn, Ph.D., chair of the Caldwell University Theology and Philosophy Department, with panelists Msgr. Richard M. Liddy, professor emeritus, Seton Hall University; Dr. Lauren Pristas ’69, Caldwell professor emerita of theology, and David Armstrong, J.D., president of St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, Florida.



1 Student Raul Gonzalez reads at the inauguration Mass.



2 Dr. Whelan with Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell and Bishop Cruz.



**3** Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history, spoke on "The History and Evolution of Catholic Women's Colleges." She is pictured with President Whelan and Vice President for Academic Affairs Peter Ubertaccio, Ph.D.

**4** Dr. (R) and Mrs. Whelan (middle), members of the campus community and alumni volunteered at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

**5** Artist Anne Goffin Smith and President Whelan at the opening reception for "Open Spaces: Recent Work of Anne Goffin Smith" in the University's Mueller Art Gallery.

**6** Guests gather to celebrate the inauguration and the opening of "Open Spaces: Recent Work of Anne Goffin Smith."

"The Sisters of Saint Dominic join you, Dr. Whelan, in this exciting ministry of educating women and men and in upholding the University's core values of Respect, Integrity, Community and Excellence as you carry forward the rich heritage that has been entrusted to you. May God grant you the grace and courage to lead faithfully and fearlessly."

—*Sister Luella Ramm '74, O.P., prioress, Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell*

"Dr. Whelan, your presidency will be marked by the lessons you inspire. May they be rooted in our core values. May they strengthen our community and may they continue to change the lives of students for years to come."

—*Linda Luciano '78, Ed.D., M.B.A., Chair of the Caldwell Board of Trustees*

"... Mr. President, you inherit some pretty formidable reins. I know you will work your hardest. I know that you will follow in the excellent footsteps of Sister Vivien and Sister Patrice and Nancy Blattner, and you are here making history as the first lay male president in this capacity. And we've come a long way, but we still have a lot to do."

—*Carlos Pomares '93, Vice President, Essex County Board of Commissioners*

"... I am just amazed at the growth and the expansion that has happened here, the new facilities and the new programs ... we're in an age of technology, and many of our students are going to pursue careers in science and technology and engineering and math, but I think the major responsibility Dr. Whelan will continue to have is giving a full-rounded liberal arts education to the students who pass through these doors."

—*Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver*

"Caldwell University won the prize. Caldwell University actually won the prize. I always believed that some lucky university was going to get Matt as their president and you are that lucky university."

—*David Armstrong, J.D., President, St. Thomas University*

**Others who provided greetings were:**

**Sister Donna Ciango '71, O.P., D.Min.**, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark; **Fran DePalma-Iozzi**, councilwoman for the Borough of Caldwell; **Steve Reynolds, Esq.**, president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey; **Elaine Zabriskie '73**, president of the Alumni Board; **Benjamin Lammers**, president of the Faculty Council and professor of history; **Andrei St. Felix '13**, director of EOF, representing the Caldwell staff, and **Samantha Guerra '22**, student government president. **Samantha Ashton '22**, a psychology and English major, read her original poem "To Be a Caldwell Cougar."

## FACULTY FEATURE

# HELEN ANTONIOU McGOWAN:

## MENTORING STUDENTS TO BECOME THEIR BEST SELVES



Helen Antoniou McGowan knows the importance of a great mentor. She's been lucky to have had a few throughout her career. As an assistant professor of business at Caldwell, McGowan assumes that mantle for her own young scholars.

"I say to my students, 'You're most likely not going to graduate and immediately land your dream job, and that's okay. I think having the experience of working in different capacities and seeing what you like and don't like helps shape you and builds character. Take those experiences,

learn from them and find what brings you joy,'" she says.

McGowan often points to her own experience as an example. A native of New Jersey, she attended the University of Maryland for her undergraduate studies and earned a double degree in international business and government and politics. Her passion for politics runs deep and she wanted to be at the center of it, which is partially why she chose an institution in close proximity to Washington, D.C. She admits her father encouraged her to take

business classes, and these complemented her studies in a practical way. "You can never go wrong with a business background. It will serve you well," McGowan says.

She went on to Seton Hall University School of Law, earning a juris doctor. From there, she served as a judicial law clerk and then a licensed attorney at a law firm for the next decade. "I liked it a lot. It was an intense experience. I worked very hard for those 10 years," McGowan says. "I learned a lot about myself and the practice of law."

However, she recalls some of the challenges that came with the job, such as being a woman in a predominantly male environment. One time at a deposition, she was mistaken for a court reporter. McGowan also had two children along the way and often couldn't attend happy hours or golf outings, if she was even invited. That's where the inspiring female mentors came into significant play and helped show her how to balance quality of life. "That's how I found my voice and figured it out."

The working mom added to her already full plate the position of adjunct professor of business at Caldwell University.

McGowan knew the job would be a lot of hard work, but she couldn't let the opportunity pass. "I knew I wanted to teach. I love mentoring. I love the law. I was getting tired of the grind," she recalls. "It just felt like everything was falling into place." Two years later, she left the law firm. "I'm taking what I know about the law and teaching it. This is better."

McGowan has now been part of the Caldwell community for almost eight years and says this is her dream job. "I love being a part of [the students'] journey and





Marketing student Francesca Bello and Assistant Professor of Business Helen Antoniou McGowan.

encouraging them to be their best selves,” she says.

She helps her students do that by drawing from the work of the Sisters of St. Dominic. “I connect with their mission of social justice and climate change. They are the real deal. I love that,” McGowan says. “I teach law classes and ethics classes. A major theme is corporate social responsibility. When you’re in the business world, are you living it? Are you acting in a way that’s responsible? Are you using your powers for good? The Sisters are doing that. They’re inspiring, and I connect with it deeply.”

McGowan says corporate social responsibility and business ethics are some of the most important goals in the School of Business and Computer Science, calling them

integral to the mission of the institution and the work of the Dominican Sisters. In fact, McGowan helped develop material for the graduate course “Business Law, Ethical Behavior, and Social Responsibility.” “It’s that tie-in, when we talk about law and ethics. They’re two distinct things. The law says you need to do this. But if you’re

going to be living out in an ethical manner, you need to do more than the law dictates. It’s one of my favorite classes to teach,” she says. “We talk about how we can develop our moral character so we’re doing the right thing.”

As the chair of the School of Business and Computer Science Assessment Committee, she is helping the University improve its courses and programs to ensure students are learning. “It means you’re measuring what you’re doing and improving on it,” says McGowan. “It’s exciting to be part of that process. We come up with new courses and new programs.”

One accomplishment the assistant professor is particularly proud of is helping co-found and advise Caldwell’s Women’s Leadership Initiative.

“We hope to support our female students as they navigate the unique challenges that women face in the business world,” McGowan says.

The initiative brings in strong, influential women as guest speakers. These women take part in networking events and share their experiences of being the only female

**“We hope to support our female students as they navigate the unique challenges that women face in the business world.”**

in the room. McGowan challenges the female students to think, “How do you navigate that? How can women look out for each other in those situations? If we can’t find a seat at the table, how do we build our own table?”

McGowan, who has lived this reality, says it’s crucial for women to know what to expect and discuss how to address it. “Those conversations are important. I don’t have all the answers, but it’s a start.”

She believes the earlier these discussions occur, the better. When she’s not busy dedicating time to her students, McGowan serves as a troop leader for her daughter’s Girl Scout troop. She says she considers them the Young Women’s Leadership Initiative. “All the things I do at the university level I hope to impart on [these] young 9- and 10-year-old girls. They are our future leaders.”

Her job of mentoring, teaching, supporting and guiding others never ends, and she wouldn’t have it any other way. “I’m exactly where I’m supposed to be. I love my job. I love our students. I love the people I work with. I love the institution and feel deeply connected to it.” ■

—Kelly Marsicano



## FACULTY FEATURE

# REBECCA VEGA:

## A TALENTED MUSICIAN BUT A TEACHER FIRST



Speak to Rebecca Vega, professor of music at Caldwell University, for any length of time about her life and you'll see she was destined to be a teacher. She was only 6 when she announced to her parents that she wanted to be a teacher. Her father was a chemical physicist, and her mom had just finished getting a certificate in art. Their advice was direct: If you're going to teach, you should go into science. But it wasn't long before it became clear that music would take top billing in Vega's life.

"Music was always around in my house," Vega remembers. "We had a piano in the house, and I started playing flute in the fifth grade and really loved it."

A move between seventh and eighth grades, when her dad began his Ph.D. studies at Cal Tech, may have cemented her future in the arts.

"Music was my one consistency and was the one thing that kept me going," Vega says.

Vega's high school band director showed her the practical path toward achieving her dreams. He encouraged her to major in music in college and planted the idea that she could be a music teacher. During her senior year, he invited Vega to participate in a music internship at an elementary school for two periods each day. That meant she was participating in four music classes every day.

At California State University, Long Beach, Vega double majored in music and education. She joined the marching band, early preparation for her groundbreaking work at Caldwell University.

After completing her undergraduate degree, she stepped into her first teaching job, bringing music to six elementary schools. The workload was enormous, requiring Vega to prepare and teach over 40 lessons each week. She almost quit teaching at that point, but the marching band and

the city of Paramount, California, showed her what was possible.

Vega arrived to teach at Paramount High School and in three short years tripled the size of the marching band while also leading the orchestra. Her drive and passion clearly translated to growth. It wouldn't be the last time a program benefited from Vega's infectious love of music.

"Nobody had ever really pushed them to march and do field shows and competitions," she says of Paramount.

While the high school showed Vega the possibilities in music education, it was far from the end of her journey. It wasn't long before she met her future husband, Quinn, on a blind date, a moment that would transform her life in more ways than one. After marrying, they moved to Michigan so he could pursue his postdoctoral degree in biology. While there, Vega completed her master's in flute performance at Eastern Michigan and held a graduate assistantship, allowing her to gain teaching experience in conducting ensembles and co-directing the marching band in addition to her time attending classes.

The couple's next move would set the stage for her introduction to Caldwell University. Her husband began a professorship at a New Jersey university and their first child was born. Vega gave private lessons and worked part time teaching band and orchestra in Essex Fells for eight years. Then she saw an ad.

The advertisement was simple. Caldwell University (then College) was looking for an adjunct flute professor. Vega applied. That job was the seed of what would grow into an influential career for Vega in Caldwell's Music Department. Her responsibilities continued to grow as she took on each opportunity with enthusiasm. When Vega held the position of music instructor, Dr. Nancy Blattner, then the University's president, had a new challenge for her.





*Rebecca Vega directs the marching band that plays at home sprint football games, open houses and other events.*

She was hoping that Vega could put together a pep band for an upcoming televised basketball game. Vega said she could, and she did just that. The band was a big hit and has continued to perform for several years. When, in 2016, Caldwell announced it was forming a sprint football team, Vega saw an opportunity to take the pep band to the next level.

"I asked Dr. Blattner, 'Do you want a marching band?'" Vega says. "She said, 'Of course I do!'"

It had been 22 years since Vega had led a band, so she visited West Chester University in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and began researching how one starts a band from nothing.

"How do we do this? How do we start this from scratch?"

Vega came up with a plan for hiring assistants, recruiting, creating scholarships and buying instruments. It was a huge undertaking. For the first year, she hired four Caldwell alumni to assist with the band. They had participated in Caldwell's pep band and also had experience in marching band or drum corps. They knew Vega and were proud of their Caldwell roots. It turned out to be the perfect way to start a program and build the identity that every college marching band needs.

Unlike high school bands, university marching bands are less concerned with competitions and more concerned with providing school spirit for the functions in which they participate.

"How do you balance the seriousness and the fun?" Vega says was the main question as the band was launched. "We are finding

out what our personality is, finding our place. I felt like we were making momentum and then COVID hit."

One area of Vega's musical life that is certainly fully formed is her own ventures into music performance: the flute octet UpTown Flutes and the chamber music group Terzetta.

"I got very lucky, and I started connecting with some of the flute players in the New Jersey area," Vega says. "They were putting together a flute octet, and I ended up subbing a lot for one of the members."

When one of the flutists stepped aside, Vega became a permanent member. UpTown Flutes plays several pieces commissioned just for its use and has performed everywhere from Caldwell University to the Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall.

Terzetta was born when Vega joined former Music Department faculty member Nan Childress Orchard, who plays piano, and cellist Jacqueline Stern to play chamber music. Childress Orchard had discovered flute, cello and piano music that she was hoping to use with a group. Stern had played as a guest with the University, so the three musicians started playing together. They have now performed in New York City and in Pittsburgh at a women's composers concert. Childress Orchard also had pieces commissioned to be played in concert during the University's time hosting the Saint John's Bible, and Vega performed at that event.

In addition to Vega's two professional groups, she has conducted the University's wind ensemble for over a decade. Her creative thinking has allowed the space

to be more than just a school activity. Students, community members and alumni are all invited to participate.

"I love that so many of our alums have continued to play with the group even after they graduate," Vega says. "It provides a great opportunity for our current students to network with them and ask questions about life after college. I am proud of that."

The group has steadily grown under Vega's supervision. There were about 25 musicians when she began conducting and there are now 45 members.

Vega hopes to bring that same steady growth to the marching band. Caldwell offers marching band scholarships to six students, renewable each year as long as they continue to participate in the band. Vega even commissioned a composer to write a fight song for the school that can now be used during games. Slowly, the pieces are coming together for the band Vega envisions.

Looking toward the future, Vega would love to build a 50- to 60-person band. She would love to create a structure in which student leaders, music education majors, are integrated into the experience. If anyone can take the band to the next level while maintaining excellence in the wind ensemble and her own musical endeavors, it is Vega.

"I am very happy that I pursued music," Vega says. "I have a lot of friends who became music educators by default, but I have always considered myself a teacher first and I put my students first." ■

—Nicole Burrell '09



# Students Learn on State-of-the-Art Financial Terminals in New Bloomberg Lab



Dr. Anthony Annan, assistant professor of finance, and Kanchan Sharma, financial economics major, in the new Caldwell University Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab.

Students in the School of Business and Computer Science started the new academic year with the exciting addition of the state-of-the-art Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab on the third floor of Werner Hall. The space features the same software and technology used globally by leading business and financial professionals.

"I was excited to learn that we would have the Bloomberg lab," says Yashasi Shrestha, a financial economics and mathematics major who worked in the lab in her Financial Markets I class in the fall semester.

The Bloomberg software and database provide real-time and historical data, market-moving news, and analytics to help business and financial professionals and government officials worldwide make better-informed business and investment decisions. The service features execution platforms for every asset class, research and a global network to communicate securely and reliably.

"It has profoundly helped me understand how fast-paced the market is and provided

insights into portfolio management," Shrestha says.

Michael Brown-Cariola, a financial economics and accounting major, says a big draw is that the terminals are the same ones used by large companies on Wall Street. In his Principles of Finance class, students used the lab to simulate jobs of fund managers "where we are in charge of an investment portfolio, with the goal being to make as much money as possible."

"The experience I am having now is going to make me a better-suited candidate when it comes time to enter the business world."

Caldwell students have the opportunity to become certified through Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC), a self-paced e-learning course on currencies, economic indicators, equities and fixed income.

They can show the BMC certification on their résumés.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate to internship providers and employers that they have the skills needed to perform well starting on the first day of the job," says Virginia Rich, associate dean of the School of Business and Computer Science. "As faculty, we're happy to access the very same service that's used in industry. It energizes our teaching and opens extraordinary research possibilities."

*“It has profoundly helped me understand how fast-paced the market is and provided insights into portfolio management.”*

Looking ahead, the business school plans

financial literacy courses for students and workshops for alumni and friends of the University. The Bloomberg lab will be an integral part of this initiative. ■

The Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab offers sponsorship opportunities for alumni and business partners. For more information go to [www.caldwell.edu/bloombergsponsorships](http://www.caldwell.edu/bloombergsponsorships) or contact Kevin Boyle at [kboyle@caldwell.edu](mailto:kboyle@caldwell.edu) or 973-618-3372.

# STUDENT Accolades



*Lilian Mai*

Junior **Lilian Mai** has been selected as an ambassador for the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), an enrichment program focused on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in pursuing the health professions. Mai, a biology major on a pre-medical track with a chemistry minor, was a medical scholar and intern during the summer of 2021 in the SHPEP program at the University of Nebraska and liked it so much she applied to become an ambassador. At the University of Nebraska, she took part in science and math enrichment, clinicals, career development and other seminars. She presented her public health research project, "Scotts Bluff County on Obesity." Mai appreciated networking with medical school faculty, advisors and 79 other students in her cohort. She is happy to be recruiting "brilliant" health care students for SHPEP. "As president of the Health Profession Club, I made it one of my goals to recruit students in the club and at other institutions because I want every student to experience this wonderful program SHPEP has to offer. Once you become an alumni, you are a part of the school community." SHPEP is part of an effort by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Senior **Yaman Thapa** received an award from the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. Thapa, a chemistry major with a neuroscience minor, won a presentation award in the biochemistry and molecular biology category after presenting an e-poster



*Yaman Thapa*

and video based on her internship at the Bernard S. and Sophie G. Gould MIT Summer Research Program in Biology last summer. The conference is one of the largest communities of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students attend the event to present their research, build professional development skills, look at graduate schools and network. Thapa is delighted she could invite Natural Science Department professors Dr. Darryl Aucoin, Dr. Agnes Berki, Dr. Xiaolei Gao and Dr. Marjorie Squires to attend the presentation and award ceremony, and she is grateful to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Peter Ubertaccio and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ellina Chernobilsky for their support.

Art therapy student **Anne Ilardi** and nursing student **Asia Batchelor** were awarded scholarships from the nonprofit organization Women, Words and Wisdom, which holds issues panel discussions for women, awards two education scholarships yearly and was founded by adult business student Jo-Ann Weiner. The nonprofit awarded gift cards to five other students—



*Anne Ilardi*



*Asia Batchelor*

Christine Millien, Suzanne M. Bilicska, Viviana Zeballos, Maranda Frank and Emma DeLeon—for their excellent entries. The students were asked to write an essay for National Women's History Month on "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced." "Caldwell University is grateful to Jo-Ann for her organization's generous support of women's education," said Virginia H. Rich, J.D., associate dean of the School of Business and Computer Science.

The Caldwell University Marching Band, under the direction of Professor Rebecca Vega and drum majors Amanda DeForne and Alicia Santamaria, performed at the Vivace Collegiate Festival on Oct. 3 along with 19 other universities. The band performed its show "Keep It Movin'," which opened with Earth, Wind and Fire's "September." The color guard was featured in Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca," followed by the crowd-pleasing "We Will Rock You" and the concluding performance of "Don't Stop Me Now." ■



# Gourmet Dining Student Scholarships



*Tom Duggan, director of dining services, and student Gabriel Cruz who works in the cafeteria and is benefiting from Gourmet Dining's scholarship program.*

The University's food supplier, Gourmet Dining, has generously donated scholarships monies for students willing to work a certain number of hours per semester in the dining hall.

Students who work 75 hours in a semester are eligible for a \$500 scholarship; those

who work 150 hours can earn a \$1,500 scholarship, and students who put in over 200 hours earn \$2,500. The grants are in addition to the minimum wage earnings of \$13 per hour.

Tom Duggan, director of dining services, says Gourmet Dining is always eager to

work with the University community and to give back to the students. "This is a way to help students working for us attend college and get a degree."

He points out that, with a certain number of hours, students could be earning over \$10 more an hour than the standard minimum wage. Even students on scholarships can benefit because they can use the money for books or other purposes.

Student Gabriel Cruz works in the cafeteria grilling chicken and burgers, working the hot line and handling other duties. He appreciates his co-workers, who are "very friendly." A computer science major from Brazil, he finds earning the extra money is a boost. "It is a great opportunity. As an international student it is helping me complete my degree."

Duggan hopes other students step up and apply for the scholarship. "We are trying to normalize things as much as we can ... that is the only way anyone is going to be able to move on."

To learn more about the scholarship program, contact Duggan at [Tomduggan@gourmetdiningllc.com](mailto:Tomduggan@gourmetdiningllc.com). ■

## Caldwell's U.S. News & World Report Rankings for 2022

Caldwell University was recognized for Best Undergraduate Teaching for Regional Universities in the North and as a Best Value University and a Top Performer on Social Mobility by U.S. News & World Report for 2022.

U.S. News also recognized Caldwell as a Best Value for Regional Universities in the North and Best Colleges for Regional Universities in the North, categories the University has placed in during previous years.

Caldwell saw gains in the rankings of Top Performers on Social Mobility among Regional Universities, coming in 16th in the North from 19th last year. The category recognizes institutions that are successful at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded Pell grants, most of whom come from families with adjusted gross incomes below \$50,000.

The University tied for sixth place among Most International Students for Regional Universities, up two notches from eighth place last year. ■



# CALDWELL COMMITMENT PROGRAM to Provide Full Tuition Scholarships for Qualified Students

The new Caldwell Commitment program provides scholarship and grant monies to students entering the University as new undergraduates.

Caldwell is offering full tuition to new freshmen and transfer students who receive both a federal Pell Grant and the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) and have at least a 3.0 high school GPA. The Pell program awards need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students. TAG is a need-based financial aid program for full-time undergraduate students who reside in New Jersey and are enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program.

In addition, the University is implementing a transparent scholarship model, awarding scholarships based on levels

of academic achievement for students regardless of where they reside or of grant eligibility.

A sliding scale based on academic achievement is available on the University's website. There will be no SAT or ACT requirement for these scholarships.

Students who want to take advantage of the Caldwell Commitment for fall 2022 are urged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid known as the FAFSA. Students may go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the FAFSA.

To learn more about how you can support the Caldwell Commitment, please contact Kevin Boyle at [kboyle@caldwell.edu](mailto:kboyle@caldwell.edu) or 973-618-3372.

**caldwell.edu/commitment**



## Business and Literary Studies Double Major Prepares Students for Post-Pandemic Marketplace

Caldwell University is launching a double major in business administration and literary studies to provide students with highly marketable skills for today's digital economy by combining business and English courses. The program is being made possible through a generous scholarship from Goldman Sachs Gives. Some of the career opportunities that the program will prepare students for include corporate communications, business and world affairs journalism, social media management, investor and employee relations, business and people analytics, international marketing and management, new product and technical product training.

Caldwell is accepting applications for the Caldwell University Business and Literary Studies Goldman Sachs Scholarship. The academic components of the program will be overseen by Dr. Tara Harney-Mahajan (English Department) and Associate Dean Virginia H. Rich (Business and Computer Science). Interested students can contact Melissa Cook at [mecook@caldwell.edu](mailto:mecook@caldwell.edu), who will be coordinating the application process. ■

*Kaitlyn Kida is the first Caldwell University student pursuing the double major in business and literary studies.*





Professors who teach in higher education help shape their students' minds so they can become fearless leaders. Professors provide tools for their students to prepare for the workforces they will enter. Higher education faculty members show their students how their lectures are being implemented outside the classroom while transforming and inspiring their students' lives. I asked some Caldwell University faculty members why they teach in higher education. The unique commitment of our amazing faculty to teach young adults was apparent in their responses.

**Stephanie Lopez '22**

*Student Reporter*

Professors who teach in higher education help shape their students' minds so they can become fearless leaders. Professors provide tools for



to me, especially in topic areas I found difficult or challenging. Additionally, I enjoy giving students insight and direction in their career planning that I had difficulty identifying earlier in my career. I believe highly qualified candidates are often overlooked because they don't know what to say or whom to speak with. Many of my lectures include how students can apply the new information to their personal arsenal of workforce skills.

For me, teaching has always been a way to explain thoughts and ideas in a manner I can understand. As a student, this was very important

When I was transitioning from clinical to administration, I was unfamiliar with how to actually make the change. To obtain a position is one thing, but to mentally make the switch from patient care to administration is another. Knowing what areas I needed to focus on and how to prioritize in a nonclinical setting was challenging, especially without having a mentor. I was fortunate to have worked under someone at the New Jersey Department of Health who would provide me guidance as I began my career in health care administration. As a matter of fact, that person has been retired now for over a decade and I still reach out to him for advice. A strong mentor is invaluable.

**Jeffrey Egnatovich,  
M.B.A., BSN, RN, NRP**  
*Program Coordinator,  
Healthcare Administration*

# WHY I TEACH



I teach because I want to have a positive impact on my students' lives. Organic chemistry has a fearsome reputation and is often referred

to as "pre-med killer." Breaking down this daunting subject into something simple (dare I say fun too) for students gives me the most satisfaction. I often find myself leaving school with a smile, thinking back on their "lightbulb" moments in the classroom. I also teach because I enjoy the personal connection with students. Each student is unique, and I love listening to their stories and often find them inspiring. Some say that "Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." It is humbling to watch students grow and transform with the right support. I feel honored to be there to help them

become the best version of themselves. So why do I teach? I think Aristotle said it best. "Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation."

**Xiaolei Gao, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Chemistry*

*“Each student is unique, and I love listening to their stories and often find them inspiring.”*



As a professor, I'm in a place of privilege to actualize that which education ought to do—orient students. There's a lot of misinformation

out there, from news outlets, social media and even from within educational institutions and presses themselves, which at times offer no more than ideological indoctrination rather than free, critical and rigorous thought. I challenge my students to think honestly, openly and critically and to think around and through all dimensions of the theological topics we engage. At Caldwell University, I'm able to join wonderful faculty in providing holistic educations to our students that engage the spirit in addition to the mind.

**Stephen Meawad, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Theology*





**T**eaching in higher education is one of the greatest joys of my life, the seeds of which were planted way back as a first-generation college student here at Caldwell (College)

University. At that time, I did my best to balance my coursework, writing my honors program thesis, meeting the demands of the SGA and interning for a congressman. However, the real struggle was sitting quietly while watching my father grapple with basic comprehension of the newspaper or his difficulty filling out government disability forms. During that final year at Caldwell, I found myself questioning my path to law school and asking questions such as, "Where were the teachers for my dad? How did retention year after year seem to be the best solution?" These questions would not subside, and so I broke the news to my parents that I would not be attending law school, but instead I would be returning to Caldwell to pursue a teaching certification. That fall I secured a middle school teaching position at St. Mary's School in Paterson under the condition that I would attend courses on the weekends to obtain licensing. I worked beside struggling readers just like my dad, and I taught myself as much as I could to meet their needs while earning their respect and trust. For the past 25 years I have worked in education as a reading interventionist and literacy coach.

Today I am educating tomorrow's teachers. It is a privilege to work with university students pursuing the dream to teach. Some of my favorite moments come from teaching our first education class (ED206) where students learn how to create lesson plans in our curriculum lab. The students are full of awe and excitement. They lean on theories and practices we have read and discussed to craft lessons that honor all learners. Through the School of Education, students are readily prepared for their final semester of student teaching. Having a front-row seat to witness the making of a CU future educator is a dream beyond measure, and that's why I choose to teach in higher education.

**Juliann Meletta, M.Ed.**  
Assistant Professor

# University Receives Historic STEM Grant from Department of Education



Associate Dean of the School of Natural Sciences William A. Velhagen Jr., Ph.D. (back row) with science students Maria Emmanouilidis, Jules Wesler, Pragya Sapkota, Yessica Serrano and Cassandra Saint-Armand.

Caldwell University learned this past fall that it was awarded a historic \$4,979,840 in competitive grant funding to benefit Hispanic and low-income students who are planning careers in science, math and computer science from the U.S. Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2021 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Articulation Program.

The five-year grant was awarded for the University's new STEM Advance initiative to benefit undergraduate students in the School of Natural Sciences, the Department of Mathematics, and the computer science program in the School of Business and Computer Science.

The program will enable Caldwell to hire additional STEM faculty to create new courses and to mentor internships, supervise research and counsel about employment opportunities. It will allow for the hiring of bilingual staff to recruit and support students and their families and to develop articulation agreements with Passaic County Community College, also an HSI, thereby streamlining the process for students to transfer into Caldwell's STEM programs. The program will fund the purchase of scientific instruments and the upgrading of research and computer science laboratory spaces.

"We want to help students think about themselves as scientists, do science by conducting research and experience science through internships," said William Velhagen, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Natural Sciences and the project director of Stem Advance.

The University will establish a \$360,000 endowment to support student internships and/or research related to those careers in perpetuity. In this way, the impact of the five-year grant will be felt for decades.

The grant requires a 50% match, \$180,000, from the University. Upon the news, the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs began soliciting alumni and friends. "I am proud to report our first two verbal pledges totaling \$50,000 so we are more than 25% toward reaching our goal," said Kevin Boyle, vice president of development and alumni affairs.

The grant application was led by Patricia Levins, Caldwell's director of corporate, foundation and government relations.

Learn more about how you can become part of this special endeavor and matching grant by contacting Kevin Boyle at [kboyle@caldwell.edu](mailto:kboyle@caldwell.edu) or 973 618-3372. ■



# Faculty & Staff Notes



**Joe Bergen, percussion instructor in the Music Department**, has been mentioned in a number of national news

articles for his mentoring of a quartet of women music artists—now known as Recap—from the time they were in middle school. The ensemble of four young women of color from New Jersey has released its debut album, “Count to Five.”

**Agnes Berki, Ph.D., professor of biology in the School of Natural Sciences**, spoke at the fifth conference of the Association of Hungarian-American Academicians at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington Sept. 24. Her presentation, “COVID-19 Variants and Next Generation Sequencing: Relevance in Combating the Pandemic,” was among the addresses delivered by several prestigious speakers.

**Christina L. Bryant, adjunct lecturer in the Department of Theology and Philosophy**, presented the paper “Politics and Domestic Violence in 1 Corinthians 4:14-21” at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature just before Thanksgiving.

**Isaac Damoah, adjunct lecturer in the School of Business and Computer Science**, was the author of “Exploring Critical Success Factors of Humanitarian Supply Chain Management in Flood Disaster Management,” accepted for publication in the Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and a co-author of “Artificial Intelligence (AI): Enhanced Medical Drones in the Healthcare Supply Chain (HSC) for Sustainability Development: A Case Study,” accepted for publication in the Journal of Cleaner Production.



**Robin Davenport, executive director of counseling services**, presented a talk titled “Taking

It Outside: Establishing Walk and Talk Counseling on a College Campus” at the Association for University and Counseling Center Directors conference in Seattle on Oct. 12, 2021.

**Ruth DeBar, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA (NY), professor of applied behavior analysis**, and colleagues published a book chapter, “Video modeling instruction for individuals with autism spectrum disorder,” in the Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis Interventions for Autism. DeBar was elected to the editorial board of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis.

**Jaz Graf, MFA, adjunct lecturer in visual art and design**, was awarded an artist residency at the Women’s Studio Workshop in New York. Graf has been selected as the 2021-22 Salzberg Resident for the Jaffe Center of Book Arts of Florida Atlantic University. Her paper, print and book works will focus on her Thai ancestry.

**John W. Hannum, assistant professor of education**, wrote the book review “Designing Authentic Performance Tasks and Projects: Tools for Meaningful Learning and Assessment,” which was published in School Administrator magazine in October 2021.

**Tara Harney-Mahajan, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and co-director of the honors program**, chaired the panel “Irish Writing and the Slightly Magical” at the Mid-Atlantic and New England American Conference for Irish Studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, in October. She was invited to serve as the treasurer for the Mid-Atlantic American Conference for Irish Studies organization. Harney-Mahajan serves as co-editor of the literary studies journal LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory under the Taylor & Francis imprint, which published LIT general issue 32.3 in the fall.

**Philip L. Hess '05, M.B.A., adjunct lecturer in the School of Business and Computer Science**, has published the book “Ask Me Anything” based on his work helping students with interviewing and résumés for the past 17 years. It has been listed among the 100 best-sellers in

business school interview books and at one point was ranked number three in new releases on Amazon.

**Candice Hsu, adjunct lecturer of modern languages**, was spotlighted by the New Jersey Department of Human Services during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October 2021. She is the founder and first president of the Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association, an American sign language teacher and a deaf interpreter.



**Joanne Jasmine, Ph.D., and Edith Dunfee Ries, Ed.D., professors of education**, presented on “Global Literature and Primary Source Documents” at the Keystone Reading Association Conference Nov. 29, 2021.

**Thomson Ling, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Psychology and Counseling**, and alum Jessica Hauck have collaborated on the book “Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Creative Arts Therapies: A Case-Based Approach,” to be published by Routledge. The edited volume features multiple chapters authored by persons affiliated with Caldwell, including Hauck and alumni Monica Wright, Jenna Park and Melanie Peters, current students Jenna Pattison, Michele Marotta, Amanda Bezold and Jongwon Melissa Choi and adjunct faculty member Faith Thayer.

**Ling, Karla Bates, associate professor of psychology and counseling**, and **Stephanie Sitnick, associate professor of psychology and counseling**, presented a symposium with alumna Sophie Hicks on “Assessment as activism: Leveraging data to dismantle the status quo” during a panel last August on “Teaching diversity: Using data to promote social justice” at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association.

**Harry Maisch IV, Ph.D., adjunct lecturer in the School of Natural Sciences**, was co-author of the article “The



Northernmost Cenozoic Atlantic Coastal Plain Occurrence and First Report of the Whale Shark, *Rhincodon typus*, Smith, 1829 from Monmouth County, New Jersey, USA," accepted for publication in the Bulletin of the New Jersey Academy of Science. Maisch and three colleagues presented on "Elasmobranchs from the Peace River and Tamiami formations (Miocene–Pliocene) on the submerged continental shelf near Venice, Florida, USA" at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's fall 2021 virtual conference.

**Stephen M. Meawad, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology**, had his submission "Social Ethic or Spiritual Ethos? Non-Orthodox Christian and Coptic Orthodox Perspectives," from "A Fresh Vision for Orthodox Social Ethics: Responses to 'For the Life of the World,'" published in Studies in Christian Ethics on Nov. 8, 2021. His submission "Unethical' Ethics: Towards an Ethical Transliteration of Coptic Orthodox Praxis" was accepted for presentation at the 12th International Congress of Coptic Studies in Brussels, Belgium, July 11-16, 2022. He was also one of 23 speakers invited to the sixth triennial Patterson Conference on Christian Unity at Fordham University May 31 to June 3, 2022. He is scheduled to speak on "Nicaea, Conciliarity, and the Future of Christianity."

**Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history**, was a guest on "The Busted Halo Show with Father Dave Dwyer" on SiriusXM Radio's The Catholic Channel. She spoke about "The History and Evolution of Catholic Women's Colleges," the theme of the lecture she was delivering for inauguration week festivities.

**Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, professor of applied behavior analysis**, co-authored a paper with his former doctoral student Briana Ostrosky and his ABA department colleagues investigating instructional methods to teach reinforcement and punishment procedures to introductory psychology undergraduate students. The paper was published in the journal *The Psychological Record*. Reeve was also a co-author on five research papers published in other peer-reviewed journals. He served as a guest associate editor for the journal *The Psychological Record* and as a research paper reviewer for the journals *Behavioral Interventions* and *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

**Sharon A. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, professor of applied behavior analysis**, was a co-author on a paper investigating effective methods to teach preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) how to follow directions. The paper was published in the journal *Behavioral Interventions*. Along with her colleagues and graduate students, she was also a co-author on five recently published behavior analysis research papers addressing play skills for children with ASD, staff training, and language interventions. Reeve and a graduate student presented a professional workshop at the annual convention of the New Jersey Education Association in Atlantic City. The workshop addressed how teachers could implement applied behavior analysis in the classroom. She also served as an article reviewer and associate editor for multiple behavior analysis journals.

**Tina Sidener, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA (NY), professor of applied behavior analysis and chair of the Applied Behavior Analysis Department**, along with colleagues Dr. Ruth DeBar, Dr. Sharon Reeve and Dr. Ken Reeve, had their paper "Identifying and training skill acquisition protocol development: A preliminary investigation" accepted for publication in *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

**Jason Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP, LBA (NY), professor of applied behavior analysis; Dr. Tina Sidener, Dr. Ken Reeve** and colleagues had their paper "Training medical students to teach safe infant sleep environment practices using pyramidal behavioral skills training" accepted by the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. He was a guest on the BAPCast podcast for the episode "Stimulus Set Sizes with Dr. Jason Vladescu."

**John T. Yurko, professor of communications and media studies**, interviewed Ann Hu, writer and director of the film "Confetti," on Aug. 11 for the Media Educators Association of which he is the director.



West Essex as a member representing Caldwell University.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### PROFESSOR GAO SECURES CHEMISTRY GRANT

**Xiaolei Gao, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Natural Sciences**, has secured a grant from Emory University's Center for Selective C-H Functionalization for the "Development of Robust C-H Activation Reactions to Incorporate into Undergraduate Laboratory Courses." The funding will provide for materials, equipment and analytical services to bring chemist Jin-Quan Yu's work to Caldwell students.

Gao says this funding will bring innovative chemistry to the undergraduate laboratory at Caldwell, exposing students to current research trends, and interaction with Yu, "the best researcher in the field" thereby inspiring the next generation of students. "I'm delighted that we were able to receive this grant. As educators we have responsibilities to introduce students to current research practices and trends in scientific research to better prepare them for their work in the field," said Gao.

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AWARD

**The Caldwell University School of Education** received the 2021 Frank Murray Award from the professional accreditor, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), for its leadership and commitment to continuous improvement.

Caldwell was one of 26 providers from 17 states and the United Arab Emirates to receive the honor. The University and the other recipients provided evidence and data trends to achieve accreditation with no stipulations or areas for improvement. Kevin Barnes, Ed.D., associate dean of the School of Education, said he was pleased with the recognition but even more so with what the faculty do every day to support Caldwell's students on their journeys to become outstanding educators. "We deeply appreciate the professional efforts by each member of the School of Education faculty, not just on the basis of this recognition by CAEP, but also on the basis for what each professor does within the confines of their classrooms and their offices as they prepare future teachers and school administrators to best serve their communities."

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# Faculty & Staff Notes

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## RESIDENCE LIFE'S CRYSTAL LOPEZ IS FELLOW FOR HACU LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Assistant Dean of Residence Life and Conduct Crystal Lopez was selected as a fellow for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' (HACU) third cohort of its Leadership Academy/ La Academia de Liderazgo. The program is designed to increase diverse representation in executive and senior-level positions in higher education.

The Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo seeks to increase the number of talented individuals who aspire to leadership positions at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Emerging HSIs. Fellows participate in an array of leadership development activities to prepare them for leadership roles in the full spectrum of institutions of higher learning with an emphasis on HSIs and Emerging HSIs.

"The program has offered opportunities to collaborate with colleagues across the nation and develop our leadership skills through key workshops and symposiums," said Lopez. "I have been excited to develop a network of new colleagues and work together on an encompassing project about how to assist our students better at institutions with the designation HSI." She has appreciated learning from others and bringing her perspective coming from a smaller institution and being one of the few student life administrators selected. "I have been able to share the small faith-based institution perspective and learn best practices in hopes of one day bringing them back to CU."

Lopez was grateful to receive a scholarship for the program from the American Federation of Teachers. "As the only member of the cohort to receive this scholarship, I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow so I can help serve students better. It is a full circle for me as my mother was a teacher for over 35 years."

The one-year Leadership Academy includes three seminars, one which took place in October 2021, in conjunction with the HACU's annual conference, "35 Years of Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success." The second seminar will lead into the HACU's annual Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education in April 2022. The third seminar will be held in late spring or early summer of 2022, with a focus on international collaboration.

More than a dozen nationally recognized current and emeriti presidents and senior-level administrators serve on the faculty. Mentorship with a university president is a key component along with the development of a special project designed to have an impact at the fellow's current institution. ■

# Caldwell Adds New Academic Programs in Supply Chain Management and Communication Science and Disorders

Caldwell University has announced the addition of new academic undergraduate programs in exciting, growing professional fields.

Bachelor's degrees in Supply Chain Management and Communication Science and Disorders will be offered to students starting in fall 2022.

**The new Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management** degree within the School of Business and Computer Science will prepare students to work as professionals in an exciting, growing and changing field that manages every step of a product or service going from the producer to the end user in an efficient manner.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 30% growth in the field from 2020 to 2030 and names New Jersey as the top-paying state for the occupation. Supply chain management presents strong labor market opportunities, and according to the educational research firm EAB is one of the highest average quarterly number of job postings in 2021.

**Communication Science and Disorders** is designed to prepare students for growing career opportunities and graduate school paths related to speech-language pathology. The major features a curriculum based on the standards of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association.

Most students who earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Science and Disorders will be prepared to pursue a master's degree to become qualified for employment as a speech language pathologist. The degree will also ready students for entry-level opportunities in education and public policy such as becoming an audiology assistant.

Time magazine ranked audiology as the No. 1 "best job in America." Business Insider in 2020 ranked it as No. 12 for "highest-paying jobs working fewer than 40 hours a week," and U.S. News & World Report in 2020 reported speech-language pathology to be No. 6 in "best healthcare jobs."

"Our investment in Supply Chain Management and Communication Science and Disorders builds on our strengths, responds to both student interest and future market conditions, and advances our mission as a comprehensive institution founded by the Sisters of St. Dominic," said Dr. Peter Ubertaccio, Caldwell's vice president for academic affairs.

For information on these and other upcoming new academic programs, go to [www.caldwell.edu/admissions/apply-now/](http://www.caldwell.edu/admissions/apply-now/). ■





Meet our Caldwell University mascot—Coop the cougar! Coop is not only an emblem of our campus at Caldwell but also knows how to show support for all of our athletic teams. Introduce yourself to Coop and take a picture together on campus!



More than just a mascot and symbol of school spirit, Coop likes to play! You can catch Coop on the courts, getting to know our teams and even trying to shoot hoops. (Dribbling needs work.)



Catch Coop outside the cafe with friends getting coursework done and studying for exams. Coop enjoys hanging out with students and likes to encourage us all to keep working diligently throughout the semester!



On colder days, Coop likes to wear Caldwell gear over his fur, and what better place to find a cozy new hoodie than the campus bookstore?

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF COOP

—By Kylee Blaney



On top of being our biggest fan, Coop cares about all our students, faculty and staff and likes to make people feel excited about coming to campus. Coop knows how to brighten everyone's day at Caldwell!



Coop is a big fan of the Student Center cafeteria and has been known to grab a seat with friends at lunch.



You might even find Coop showing support for our incredible faculty and staff at Caldwell University! Here he is with Education Department faculty member Catherine Lundquist, Ph.D.



## Dominican Connection

# FATHER DOMINIC CIRIACO: THE SISTERS INSPIRED MY VOCATION



Father Dominic Ciriaco '93 credits the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell for his vocation to the priesthood. Growing up in Caldwell he attended St.

Aloysius grammar school where the Sisters served. "They were very inspirational to me for my vocation when I was a child—living together, the work they did," says Father Dominic, who is the rector of the Theological College, the National Seminary of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., which serves seminarians preparing to serve as diocesan priests. "I always said the Sisters would favor me because of my name. My father's name is Dominic. I always had a great love for St. Dominic and again the Dominican way."

The Theological College sits at the crossroads of a Catholic hub in the U.S. where people from around the country and the world come to visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic University of America, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Dominican House of Studies. Father Dominic's seminary serves 22 dioceses across the United States. "That is what is exciting. I see the Church of the United States come together here," he says.

"I think the culture of all those areas is interesting to see—the dynamics they bring and what they are going back to," says Father Dominic of the varied situations the newly ordained men will face across the U.S., with some assigned to megachurches and others running churches without any other priests.

The seminary was started by the Sulpicians, a society whose founder was Father

Jean-Jacques Olier. In 17th-century Paris, future priests were trained in an apprenticeship format, and Olier saw a need for training in community. "That is our charism. The specific work is to do seminary formation," explains Father Dominic. It is gratifying work and daunting given the challenges in the Church today. "You really get to see the thinking of these men as they are preparing for the priesthood, growing in holiness ... and learning from the struggles of the past with the Church, applying (them) and helping us to try to do better in the future."

Father Dominic remembers his days of discernment when he was an undergraduate at what was then Caldwell College. After attending high school at James Caldwell, he decided on Caldwell because he wanted to be in a Catholic atmosphere and because his older brother had been pleased with his education at the college. Dominic majored in social studies and education with plans to become a teacher. "I loved the education classes." He remembers fondly his education professors Sister Mary John Kearney, O.P. and Sister Mary Amelia Cetera, O.P. He also enjoyed English and history classes. "Sister Brigid Brady had an Age of Chaucer course, which I just loved ... Dr. Marie Mullaney was one of my favorite teachers." Sister Mary John says Father Dominic was an outstanding young man as a student "who was wonderful in taking on any kind of leadership role," particularly as president of the Caldwell College Education Association.

During his undergraduate years Dominic worked on the yearbook, was social chair of the Student Government Association and a member of the Honor Society for education and for a period wrote for the Kettle student newspaper and was active in campus ministry. During his senior year he started seriously discerning a vocation; he had heard the call earlier but put it off. He got to know some newly ordained priests

and had conversations with Caldwell's long-time chaplain, Father Bob Stagg.

Upon graduation, Dominic decided to teach fourth grade at Sacred Heart School in Lyndhurst. After one year he entered Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University where he earned his master's degrees in systematic theology and divinity and was ordained in the Archdiocese of Newark, becoming the first Caldwell College graduate to become a priest. He recalls how Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., then Caldwell's president, sent him a congratulatory card and commented that Mother Joseph Dunn—who founded the college in 1939 for women—probably never envisioned that an alum would become a priest. Sister Mary John said it was a "joy for all of us" to watch Dominic go through the seminary and then receive his first blessing at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark.

After his ordination, Father Dominic spent eight years in Catholic high schools in New Jersey, teaching theology and working in campus ministry, and then served for 12 years in parishes—St. Agnes in Clark, Notre Dame in North Caldwell and St. Mary's in Dumont where he was the pastor for four years. "That was where I was inspired to want to do the work of seminary formation."

He joined the Theological Seminary, serving as the associate director of intellectual formation and director of Basselin scholars, and then became vice rector and dean of men. He also taught the preaching practicum at Catholic University.



*Dominic as an undergraduate student in a Caldwell College yearbook picture.*





*Father Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., with Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington.*

The Dominican influence is still a part of his life; he is working on his thesis for his doctorate in preaching through Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, a program he says is ideal for those who work full time in ministry and want to go to school. His research on "Preaching with Art" focuses on the work of pop artist and former nun Corita Kent, a peace and justice activist who was drawn to the work of artist Andy Warhol. Kent's former spiritual director was a Sulpician, and the community owns a good portion of her work, which Father first saw at its provincial house in Baltimore. He is convinced of the great power of art to "preach on its own" and believes preachers can use an art piece to enhance homilies and visualize a Gospel passage.

Father Dominic has authored two books. The first was "Witnesses to the Gospel: Reflections on Saints and Others Who Inspire," which came out of my time teaching high school." He wanted to make the Gospels come alive through the lives of the saints, so he showed how saints lived out Scripture quotes. The second was "A Woman for All Seasons: Margaret Anna Cusack, The Nun of Kenmare," focusing on the foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace.

Although his work these days is primarily with seminarians, Father Dominic says Vatican II called all Catholics to serve the Church. The faithful can and must play a role in promoting the priesthood, especially if they want to see the sacraments continue, he says. "We might see something in someone where they would be ideal with this ... encouraging it and not shying away from it ... just to plant the seed and get the person thinking." And it is the same with encouraging women to consider religious

life and all Catholics to be a part of their Church communities. "I'm a proponent for vocations in all those areas."

Father knows that Caldwell University students and alumni are privileged to be a part of the University's rich tradition. He points to the Dominican motto "to praise, to bless, to preach" at the core of the Dominican charism as important

for everyone in the campus and alumni community to take to heart. "To praise is to always stay connected to God and give glory to God, and the Dominicans do that well. To bless is to touch people's lives in different ways" including through the social justice work the Dominicans have done and continue to do today. And to preach means "to communicate the Word of God not just through words but also through our actions."

The Dominican order, he says, has had a major impact on the Church and continues to have a great influence. "I hope students leave there knowing some of the Dominican impact, the Dominican saints." The gift of this legacy is theirs to discover. "That is up to them. They have to catch on to it." ■

—CL

## SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC AND UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO SUPPORT AFGHAN CHILD REFUGEES



*Sister Lena Picillo, O.P., and Meghan Moran '07 before they head to Catholic Charities to deliver the donations for child refugees from Afghanistan.*

In September the Sisters of St. Dominic and the University took up a collection of educational and recreational items for child refugees from Afghanistan who were living at Fort Dix at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The team worked with John Westervelt, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Newark, to determine the needs. Sister Lena Picillo, O.P., put out the word to the Sisters. Colleen O'Brien, director of campus ministry,

and Meghan Moran, former director of alumni affairs and engagement, collected the donations from the University community. "It was such an outpouring of generosity to the children and families of Afghanistan," said Sister Lena, so much so that the team had to rent a U-haul, which was filled to the brim. Moran drove the truck to Catholic Charities in Trenton for the items to be donated to the families at Fort Dix. ■



# FALL AP REAP

## CROSS COUNTRY, SPRINT FOOTBALL REACH NEW HEIGHTS TO HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSFUL FALL SEASON

The men's and women's cross country teams posted their best finishes at the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference championship meet this fall to highlight a successful season. Both teams finished in fifth place at the meet, marking a program high for each team. Senior Ana Gonzalez Martin (Toledo, Spain) and sophomore Karen Herrera (Edison, New Jersey) earned all-conference honors, with both placing in the top 15 at the championship meet. Gonzalez Martin took third place overall, while Herrera finished in 12th place. On the men's side, freshman Joey Datta (Edison, New Jersey) earned all-conference honors as he took fourth place at the conference meet.

The sprint football team turned in the best season in the program's young history, finishing with a record five wins. The Cougars took second place in the Collegiate Sprint Football League's North Division with a 3-1 division mark. The team had a record 12 all-conference winners, including two on the first team. Senior running back Carl Watson (Newark, New Jersey) and senior Derek



*Head Coach Jim Kelly leads the Cougars to a record-setting season.*

Michelman (Newton, New Jersey) were CSFL First Team picks. Junior wide receiver Jeremy Colon (Union City, New Jersey), junior defensive lineman Michael Lohrmann (Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey), sophomore defensive lineman Messiah Porter (Rutherford, New Jersey), freshman linebacker Andrew Conklin (Long Branch, New Jersey), senior linebacker Anthony Guarino (Tinton Falls, New Jersey) and freshman defensive back Kyle Readus (Paterson, New Jersey) earned CSFL Second Team honors. The CSFL Honorable Mention team included junior quarterback Frank DeMaio (Nutley, New Jersey), freshman tight end Angelo Drake (Manville, New Jersey), sophomore defensive back Brandon Curry (Paterson, New Jersey) and sophomore defensive back Tyquil Anderson (Trenton, New Jersey).

The women's soccer team ended its fall season with seven wins. The team posted a 5-5-1 record in conference play to finish in seventh place, reaching the CACC quarterfinals. The Cougars had two all-conference selections—junior forward Sarah Costanza (Morris Plains, New Jersey) and grad student midfielder Teaghan Darling (Forked River, New Jersey). Costanza was a CACC First Team selection, while Darling was named to the



*L to R: Head Coach Kyle Price with all-conference winners Joey Datta, Ana Gonzalez Martin and Karen Herrera.*

CACC Second Team. Costanza was an all-region honoree as she was selected to the Division II Conference Commissioners Association All East Region Second Team.

The women's volleyball team finished its season with three conference wins this past fall. The Cougars had four CACC All-Academic winners including seniors Samantha Ashton (Colonia, New Jersey) and Humiko Storner (Lucky, Ohio), who were honored for the third time in their careers.

The men's soccer team ended its fall season with five wins, including a thrilling overtime victory over NCAA tournament team Molloy College. The Cougars had five CACC All-Academic Team honorees as juniors Chris Ferri (Parsippany, New Jersey), Nickolas Fiallos (Kearny, New Jersey) and William Hernandez (Brentwood, New York) were recognized for the second straight season. ■

—JT



# Men's Basketball Head Coach Mark Corino Reaches New Heights with Record-Setting Victory

**RECORDS 604<sup>TH</sup> CAREER  
VICTORY TO BECOME ALL-TIME  
NCAA LEADER IN NEW JERSEY**

Men's Basketball Head Coach Mark A. Corino continued to add to his prestigious career milestones and legacy, recording his 604th career victory on Jan. 8. The win earned Coach Corino the state of New Jersey record for victories by an NCAA coach, passing former Stockton University coach Gerry Matthews.

Corino's career at Caldwell started in 1988 when he assumed the director of athletics position and took over as the men's basketball head coach, leading a program entering its second year as an intercollegiate sport. Corino is in his 34th year coaching at Caldwell and 39th year overall as a collegiate head coach; his first five years were at Bloomfield College.

Corino's state record added to his legacy, which has raised the profile of the institution over three decades. His list of accolades includes Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year four times, Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association Division II Coach of the Year in 1998, Caldwell Athletics Hall of Fame inductee in 2016 and the Garden State Award from the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey.



In addition, he has served on the NCAA men's basketball rules committee and on the Division II East Region advisory committee. His extensive coaching success includes five trips to the NAIA national tournament, two appearances in the NCAA Division II tournament, seven CACC regular-season championships and six CACC tournament titles.

As athletic director, Corino led the CACC and Caldwell in the transition from the NAIA to the NCAA in 1998; the process was completed in 2002, raising the profile of the conference and the institution.

The Corino name is well known throughout Essex County as the family has a coaching pedigree. His brother Carl was a successful softball coach at Belleville High School from 1980 to 2005, and the softball field in Belleville was named after Carl in 2016.

Coach Corino's success and his impact on the University led Caldwell in 2018 to dedicate the playing arena at the George R. Newman Center as the Mark A. Corino Court.

"I'm proud of the accomplishments, but I didn't do it alone," said Corino.

"It takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people, including my coaching staff. It's the institution providing me with the opportunity to coach for as long as I have and the support of the administration. It's the development of young men that I take the most pride in and the program as a whole. Obviously, you think of the championships, and that makes you smile. But graduation is something that makes me smile the most. Their collegiate success, both athletically and academically, gives me the most pride." ■

—JT



## A CALDWELL LEGEND AND SUPER FAN: REMEMBERING SISTER MICHEL

The passing of Sister Michel Rodgers, O.P. '62 on Oct. 11 was felt by the entire campus community but perhaps most by the Athletics Department because she was an amazing champion for the staff and student-athletes.

Sister served Caldwell as vice president for student life, tutor in the Academic Support Center, sociology professor, director of residence life, assistant academic dean and coordinator of academic advancement. She was inducted into the Athletics Department's "Elite Eight" inaugural Hall of Fame.

Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark A. Corino said Sister Michel was the department's spiritual leader, passionate

supporter, number-one fan and, most important, a loving friend. "She touched the lives of hundreds of student-athletes and athletic staff members with her never-ending guidance, support and leadership. She touched my life and the lives of all in athletics in a way that is life-lasting."

Associate Athletic Director and Head Softball Coach Dean Johnson said Sister Michel was someone "you could always speak to, a person who cared about our student athletes, coaches and staff ... I will always remember Sister Michel sitting in a chair in March at the softball games with a blanket on, refusing to leave until the designated hitter had ended, and her sitting in the stands, three rows up, center court, keeping the stats for the women's and men's basketball games." ■



# Caldwell Athletics Honored with NCAA President's Award for Academic Excellence for Second Consecutive Year



The Caldwell Athletics Department was honored with the NCAA President's Award, which recognizes institutions for their academic excellence. Caldwell was among 43 NCAA Division II institutions to receive this prestigious recognition.

Caldwell is among four institutions in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference that were honored as the department achieved an academic success rate (ASR) over 90% for the third time in the past four years. The department's mark of 91%

is an increase of one percentage point from last year; the Cougars tied for 29th across Division II institutions.

"We are extremely pleased to receive the NCAA President's Award for a second consecutive year that highlights the academic success of our department," said Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark A. Corino. "As one of four schools in our conference to achieve over 90% academic success rate, this is truly a significant accomplishment for

our department, and we are proud of our student-athletes and our entire staff."

The ASR is the percentage of student-athletes who graduate within six years of initial enrollment in college and includes virtually all Division II student-athletes and those not receiving athletics scholarships. The Division II ASR also captures about 50% more college athletes than the federal graduation rate. The national ASR is 76% for student-athletes who entered college from 2011 through 2014, the latest data released by the NCAA.

Caldwell University increased its academic success from the previous cohort year. Highlights from the current-year report include a 73% student-athlete graduation rate, and Caldwell is one of four CACC institutions to achieve a 90% ASR.

Three of Caldwell's teams—women's basketball, women's lacrosse and women's volleyball—earned a 100% ASR. Ten of Caldwell's teams attained an ASR at or above the national average for their sport. ■

—JT

## Women's Track and Field's Cindy Herrera Attends NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum

Women's track and field team member Cindy Herrera (Rockaway, New Jersey) was one of three representatives from the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference to attend the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Texas this past November. Herrera was joined by athletics administrator Jenna Adams as part of the NCAA's program to promote leadership skills among its student-athletes.

The forum is a four-day experience drawing a range of student-athletes, coaches, faculty members and administrators from all three NCAA divisions who are provided with the opportunity to learn about themselves and to improve their leadership skills. The event included leadership and development workshops, breakout sessions and leadership training.

Herrera was honored to represent Caldwell University, Division II and the CACC.

*"Being able to meet different student athletes, coaches and administrators from all over the country, and even internationally, was such an eye-opening experience because we all got to learn what it meant to be a leader." Being a leader, she said, involves much more than a title. "You don't need to be captain of your sport or do a hundred and one things on campus to be considered a great leader and listener. At the end of the day, I learned that the only thing stopping you from experiencing your life to the fullest is you, and I'll thank the NCAA for showing me that."*

The forum, created in 1997, has been a life-changing experience for student-athletes, who have grown personally and professionally as a result of their

attendance. Student-athletes selected to attend the forum return to campus with invaluable leadership skills, a refined understanding of the relationship among personal values, core beliefs and behavioral styles, and the support of a close network of like-minded peers that provides continued connection and dialogue after the program concludes. ■

—JT



Women's track and field senior Cindy Herrera.



# What You Do Today Can Help Secure Her Tomorrow

Members of the Saint Catherine of Siena Circle are special benefactors who choose to include the University in their plan through a bequest, through life-income gifts or by designating the University as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Commitments of this kind help strengthen and ensure the future for Caldwell University.

Your legacy gift is a meaningful way to ensure that future generations can benefit from a Caldwell education. For more information, please get in touch with Sharon Dwyer, Director of Special Giving Initiatives, Development and Alumni Affairs by phone at **973-618-3207** or via email at [sdwyer@caldwell.edu](mailto:sdwyer@caldwell.edu).



Saint Catherine  
of Siena Circle



To learn more about ways you can support Caldwell through your will or plan, visit <http://plannedgiving.caldwell.edu> or contact Sharon Dwyer at [sdwyer@caldwell.edu](mailto:sdwyer@caldwell.edu) or **973-618-3207**.

The Saint Catherine of Siena Circle gratefully recognizes Caldwell University alumni and friends who have supported the University through their will or plan.

## C U R E C I V E S

# Office of Violence Against Women Grant

Caldwell University was selected as a 2021 Office of Violence against Women awardee for a three-year grant to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through the Campus Program grant. This is the University's second award and will ensure that the outreach work of the Student Advocacy and Prevention Awareness (SAPA) Office will continue for three more years on campus.

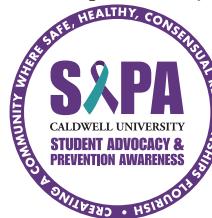
Project director Abdul Staten will lead the University's Coordinated Community Response Team, an interdisciplinary group of faculty and staff. The goals of the Campus Program grant are to create a response team, develop a comprehensive prevention program, implement a discipline-specific training program for campus law enforcement, implement a discipline-specific training program for all persons involved in the student conduct

and/or disciplinary process and provide access to 24-hour confidential victim services and advocacy.

Within the SAPA Office, Staten and a team of student peer educators will develop initiatives to ensure the grant's success, including creating student-facing programming, enhancing SAPA social media presence, implementing programming for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness months and implementing prevention education activities. Special efforts will be made to address the concerns of marginalized student populations (i.e., LGBTQIA+, Hispanic, Black, international), male students (including athletes) and commuter students.

Staten says the SAPA Office is grateful for the ongoing support of three major

community partners: Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) of Essex County, which provides comprehensive victim support services, including a 24/7 crisis line; the Essex County Family Justice Center, the local domestic violence agency, and the Caldwell Police Department, which liaisons with campus security to respond to sexual assault matters and coordinates joint trainings with campus security.



To find out more, go to [www.caldwell.edu/sapa/](http://www.caldwell.edu/sapa/). ■





# ALUMNI REUNIONS



1 L to R: Mary Jane Lee Schaefer, Patricia Murphy McGarry, and Regina Monks Sieben from the Class of 1960 celebrated their reunion.



2 Members of the Class of 1966 celebrate their 55th reunion.



3 Members of the Class of 1970 celebrate their 50th reunion.



4 L to R: Mary Ann Frigola Cox '70, Floreen Mollica, Patricia Grodeck '70, Debra Grodeck Condrat '74.



5 Dr. Matthew Whelan joins members of the Class of 1971 and their spouses.

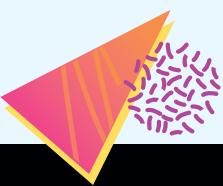


6 Members of the Class of 1971 celebrate their 50th reunion.





Celebrating the 1980s with their classmates are, front row, L to R: Patricia Polizzi, Caldwell University Board of Trustees member; Sister Mary John Kearney, O.P. '62; Anne Marie Ryan '84; Sister Patrice Werner, Ph.D., O.P. '66, former Caldwell University president; Camille Cronin-Reinhold '81; Lynne Ann Sater Connor '82, and Hope Caruso; back row, L to R: Patricia Gasperini '84; Laurie Campana '84; Ethel Conroy '83; JoAnne DiAgostino '80; Nora Bishop '80; Maria DiPaolo Sim '84; Suzanne Spadoto Garris '89; Mary Pagliuca '81; Teresa Chimienti D'Elia '84; Mary Haveron Balitos '85, and Margaret Kean Lantz '84.



## ALUMNI RECEPTION CELEBRATING THE

# 1980s

A good time was had by all who attended the second 1980s Alumni Reception held on Oct. 8, 2021. Good food, lots of reminiscing and of course our famous raffles of Caldwell gear made for a fun time for all.



Joining the '80s celebration are, L to R: Vanessa Treus '11, assistant vice president for development and alumni affairs; Kevin Boyle, vice president for development and alumni affairs, JoAnne DiAgostino '80 and Nora Bishop '80.



# "You Never Forget the People Who Helped You"

## Alisa Sokoloff '01, M.D.

As a young girl growing up in her native Russia, Alisa Sokoloff knew she wanted the kind of opportunity and freedom to pursue her dreams she could find only in the United States. She jumped at the chance to attend high school as an exchange student and experienced American life in California, where she lived with a host family. After graduating, she returned to Russia but was resolute about returning to the United States.

"I started looking [at colleges] on the East Coast," she says, and connected over email with a Caldwell faculty member who focused on recruiting international students. Sokoloff applied for admission and was thrilled to be awarded a full scholarship.

"You never forget the people who helped you," says Sokoloff, citing her Caldwell mentors, chemistry professor Dr. Jean Armstrong and biology professors Dr. Catherine Koo and Dr. Sook Choi. These faculty members, recognizing Sokoloff's formidable drive and intellect, encouraged her to consider a career in medicine. While at Caldwell, in recognition of her

exceptional record of achievement, Sokoloff was awarded a Fulbright scholarship.

Then, when she was 21, grim news arrived: Her father in Russia received a diagnosis of lymphoma; he passed away just weeks later at the age of 47. This life-altering event became the impetus for Sokoloff's future in medicine: She turned her grief into action, committing to a career in hematology-oncology.

Sokoloff graduated from Caldwell with a degree in biology, but plans for medical school became imperiled when

her application met with a visa-related issue. However, she remained undeterred, working as a medical technician for several years until government officials reestablished the viability of her visa. She applied and was accepted to the medical school at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. After graduating, she completed her internal medicine internship and residency at Lenox Hill Hospital and a hematology-oncology fellowship at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Today Sokoloff is an

*“The first place that gave me a chance, and I'll always be grateful.”*

assistant professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, the graduate medical school of Hofstra University. She is a board-certified hematologist-oncologist in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology.

She says that helping patients and families navigate the vagaries of treatment and providing them with reassurance and support takes "stamina." But despite the challenges inherent in caring for cancer patients, Sokoloff says she finds inspiration in the "good outcomes" she regularly sees, adding that the gratitude of her patients and their families is what makes her profession "great." This year she joined the staff of the New York Cancer & Blood Specialists (NYCBS), one of the country's leading oncology practices. Dr. Jeffrey Vacirca, CEO of NYCBS, welcomed her, saying, "Dr. Sokoloff is a brilliant, caring physician. She will provide excellent care to our patients in the community."

Sokoloff's courageous and solitary journey to a new and unfamiliar land led her to Caldwell, which she says is "The first place that gave me a chance, and I'll always be grateful." ■

—Christina Hall





"Back in the day" at the U.N. L-R: Nancy Hurtz-Soyka; Yukio Takasu, U.N. undersecretary-general for management, and Vladimir Belov, chief of the United Nations Budget Division.

## A Small-Town Girl Who Bagged a Big Dream

### Nancy Hurtz-Soyka '71

You may have heard the joke that asks, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" The punch line: "Practice, practice, practice." So how do you get a job at the United Nations? The answer is moxie, which perfectly describes Nancy Hurtz-Soyka '71. She took the first step in what was to be a brilliant career the day after receiving her Caldwell diploma.

As an undergraduate majoring in French and education, Hurtz-Soyka had big dreams. So it was no surprise to anyone who knew her that she walked right into the U.N.—security issues weren't omnipresent in 1971—completed an employment application and was hired to be an evaluator in human resources. The view from the 33rd floor was spectacular, and she spent her days welcoming prospective employees, reviewing employment applications and verifying visas.

Her career at the U.N., which unfolded over many years, saw her serve in various management and professional roles in human resources, general services, and finance, overseeing the operation of multiple integral office locations. She also transferred for a stint at the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), living in Paris for a year. She earned a master's degree in public administration from New York University while working full-time. She was one of the candidates to first successfully take the U.N. career exam, scoring at the highest level.

When she and her husband, Edward, started their family, Hurtz-Soyka continued her ambitious career trajectory. After making an early morning commute into Manhattan, she would leave her children at the U.N. day care center; later in the day, she would see them for lunch in the nursery. Having a supportive husband, she says, was key. She worked in the office, often until 7 p.m. Her husband would drive into the city, and they would have dinner with their children in the cafeteria, after which he would take the children home.

At the pinnacle of her career with the U.N., Hurtz-Soyka served in various capacities, reporting to a number of

*“Caldwell gave me what I needed to live a life I could never have imagined.”*

Deeply grateful for her Caldwell education, she has kept close ties with classmates and has volunteered on the Veritas committee for five years. Asked what Caldwell means in her life, she responds, "Caldwell gave me what I needed to live a life I could never have imagined." ■

—Christina Hall

secretaries-general, including the renowned Kofi Annan of Ghana. Among her responsibilities was crafting presentations for Annan to make to world leaders at the General Assembly. She traveled internationally and met a dazzling array of world leaders and dignitaries, including Pope John Paul II, President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the King of Sweden. Due to the U.N.'s mandatory retirement age, she resigned as director of the United Nations Ethics Office. She was recently elected to the U.N.'s Governing Board of Retirees.

Once she left the U.N., Hurtz-Soyka's love of teaching blossomed. She earned a TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages) advanced certificate for English at Montclair State University and taught there. At Bloomfield College, she oversaw the language curriculum developed for Chinese and Korean students. She joined Berlitz, the language education and leadership training corporation, serving as a director for five years and heading up the company's language school in Northern New Jersey. She taught French classes at the Wayne Adult School and currently teaches adults at the Morris County School of Technology.

While at the U.N., Hurtz-Soyka interviewed for a position with the FBI, passing the first part of the exam but finding the basic training requirement daunting. This alumna is never bored and always busy. Despite that, she always makes time for her husband, three adult children, two grandchildren and wide-ranging

interests that include culture, politics, literature, cooking, education and travel. Hurtz-Soyka has spent her life in the small town of Wyckoff and lives just minutes from her childhood home.

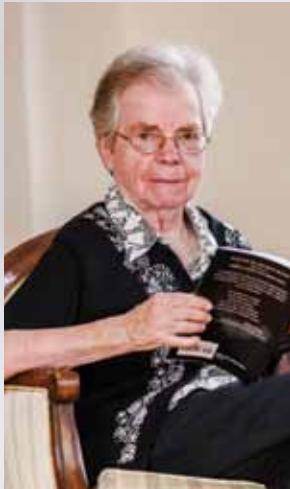




Enjoying the Singing Florist fundraiser, L to R: Alice Sellitto, Adele Dougherty, Nina Neglia '89, Alumni Board President Elaine Zabriskie '73, Sister Patrice Werner, Ph.D., O.P. '66 and Board of Trustee member Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83.

+ Seven

## Sister Elizabeth Michael Boyle, O.P.—A Teacher, a Poet, a Friend



Even in death, Sister Elizabeth Michael Boyle, O.P., was still teaching. In her final months she demonstrated the lived experience, expressed in her poem “Lovers and Other Strangers,” written years earlier:

*... the Love whose face  
No one has seen  
Is  
And is coming soon  
To “transubstantiate my flesh”  
To light.*

Sister Elizabeth was a member of the Caldwell University English faculty from 1969 to 2003. I first met her in the '70s when, as a continuing education student, I walked into her classroom with trepidation. Her reputation as a scholar preceded her, and surely all my ineptness would be revealed. Yet the opposite took place. Sister, her soaring intellect infused by her faith, was a gentle force sprinkled like salt over the classroom, drawing from each student a luster she didn't know she had.

Her door was always open, even after graduation. It was in this context I got to know her in her other life, as daughter,

sister to four brothers, sister-in-law, and finally as Aunt Betsy to her nephew's three sons. And she was funny; seeing and commenting on life's little ironies, she missed nothing.

Sister Elizabeth had neither published nor read her own poetry aloud until leaving the classroom. She told of how her writing career began. In 1998, as chair of the English Department, she invited the nationally acclaimed poet Mark Doty to do a reading at the college to celebrate National Poetry Month. Afterward, over dinner with Doty and a few faculty members, Doty's comments combined insights about the art of poetry with strong encouragement for those around the table to produce their own. I was privileged to be one of those around the table. We acted on his advice.

The Caldwell poets had no official title until 2001 when Sister moved into her “sanctuary in the sky” at the top of Rosary Hall, and the official title Tower Poets seemed a natural fit. Since then, cheered on by the Tower Poets, she had published “Preaching the Poetry of the Gospels” (2003), “Science as Sacred Metaphor” (2006), “Gift Exchange” (2009), “The View from the Ruin: Images for a Dialogue of Faith with Doubt” (2011) and “The Bible & Literature” (2015), co-authored with Carol J. Dempsey.

For all who knew her as a teacher or a friend, our lives will continue to be enriched by having been exposed to her, and for everyone, her books are a legacy waiting to be explored. ■

—Marion Goldstein '79



# Alumni President

**LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT  
ELAINE BAUER ZABRISKIE '73**



Dear Fellow Alumni,

One of my favorite days comes after the first of the year when I look out the window and see some daylight around 5 p.m. Usually, beginning the first Thursday or Friday in January, things steadily improve until before long we are seeing green buds, sunshine and finally flowers. Renewal brings the best kind of joy.

Caldwell University has experienced renewal this past year in several forms. Not only were students welcomed back to the campus last fall for in-person classes after a long absence due to the pandemic, but the Alumni Association welcomed incoming freshmen with souvenir cups and candies, and all without Zoom interference. We inaugurated Dr. Matthew Whelan as our ninth president, with a series of events celebrating Caldwell traditions and campus life, culminating in the inaugural Mass and installation ceremony on October 22. It was a great day which brought together many different members of the Caldwell University family!

October was also a time of alumni reunions. On October 8, 2021, alumni from the 1980s got together for a fun '80s themed night! On October 23, 2021, a combined reunion was held to celebrate anniversary classes that were not able to gather in 2020 as well as anniversary classes from 2021. It was great to welcome back the classes of '60, '61, '65, '66, '70 and '71!

We held a virtual fundraiser on April 22, 2021, Wine and Paint, the first fundraising we were able to schedule in over a year. On November 15, 2021, the Alumni Association held another successful Singing Florist event. We were treated to a floral arranging show, accompanied by our favorite singing florist, John Newman, who entertained us with show tunes and Christmas songs, setting us up for the holiday season.

We encourage our alumni to keep in touch with our Alumni Office and to keep us updated on life's milestones.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year and hoping to continue our renewal as we move forward as a University, as a Christian community and as friends, leaving the uncertainty of the pandemic days behind us.

Be well and stay safe,

*Elaine Bauer Zabriskie*

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73  
President, Alumni Association

## 2022-23 CALDWELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PRESIDENT

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73

### VICE PRESIDENT

James Stark '14

### SECRETARY

Anna Nelson '88

### TREASURER

Roxanne Knott-Kuczborski '03

### MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND LIAISON TO THE BOARD

Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83

### MEMBERS

- Rosemary Hilbert '96
- Marisa Juliano '17
- Kaitlyn Kazalunas '16
- Javier Lewis '14
- Jonni Lucas '96
- Lynne Giachetti Machtemes, Esq. '98
- Sundra Murray '04
- Noel Ruane '70
- Lamar Shea-Chang '20
- Megan Norton '22

*in memory of...*

*Please remember these  
deceased alumni and family  
members in your prayers.*

Ruthe Reilly '47

Jo Ann Raimo Knapp '65

Patricia Ann Barabas

Mother of Kathleen Barabas '85 and  
Mariellen Barabas Baldwin '92

Catherine Kiernan Flynn '51

Jean Kroeplin Kerrigan '51

Mary Lee Brown Gerard '52

Margaret O'Donnell Krauss '53

Sister Mary McGuinness, O.P. '55

Sister Elizabeth Michael Boyle, O.P. '59

Mary Louise Hartnett Sweetman '60

Sister M. Bertrand Austin, O.P. '62

Harriet E. McCafferty '62

Sister Michel Rodgers, O.P. '62

Marie A. Breslin '64

Lorraine Grill '64

Carla Staudacker Schechner '65

Alice Segarra

Mother of Donna Segarra '65

Barbara Boshinski Futej '66

Regina Wallen '67

Marshall Curtis

Husband of Eileen Donigan Curtis '68

Sister Ellen McMahon, O.P. '69

Gabriella Terese Rispoli '70

Diane Turnier Farrell '71

Kathleen Ann Harris '71

Elizabeth Murphy Durkin '80

Lois Peter Cullum '94

Diane Collins Campbell '95

Rev. Dr. Paul O. Boger Sr.

Kelly Rose Walsh Abell '12

Michelle Stani '17

Jordan C. Jimerson '21





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# SAVE THE DATE

## SUPER SATURDAY ALUMNI DAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN READ-IN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 11:30 A.M.

## ADMISSIONS EVENTS

GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3 • 6:30 P.M.

GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 10 A.M.

OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.

## MUELLER GALLERY ART EXHIBITS

JEFF FELD: A TOUR OF THE MONUMENTS OF  
RIDGEWOOD, QUEENS | LYLA RYE: FLATLAND  
JANUARY 26 – MARCH 5

## FOUNDER'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

## CALDWELL RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ARTS DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

## CONCERTS

**SOLO AND CHAMBER CONCERT**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 • 7 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

**SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERT**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12 • 7 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

**JAZZ AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21 • 7 P.M. • STUDENT CENTER GYM

**ALICIA SANTAMARIA SENIOR TRUMPET RECITAL**  
SUNDAY, MAY 1 • 2 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

**SPRING CONCERT (CHORALE AND WIND ENSEMBLE)**  
MONDAY, MAY 2 • 7 P.M. • STUDENT CENTER GYM

**NEW STUDENT AUDITIONS**  
SATURDAYS, MARCH 5 AND APRIL 2.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP  
AND/OR MAJORING IN MUSIC  
SHOULD CONTACT [RVEGA@CALDWELL.EDU](mailto:RVEGA@CALDWELL.EDU)  
TO SET UP THE AUDITIONS.

## HONORS CONVOCATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

## COMMENCEMENT

COMMENCEMENT LITURGY • SATURDAY, MAY 14  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY • SUNDAY, MAY 15

## WEEKLY MASS

MASS IS HELD MOST SUNDAYS AT 7 P.M.  
IN SISTER MARY DOMINIC TWEEDUS CHAPEL.  
IT IS ALSO LIVE STREAMED ON THE CALDWELL UNIVERSITY  
CAMPUS MINISTRY YOUTUBE CHANNEL.