



The Magazine of Centenary University

Fall 2019

# CENTENARIAN

**SCIENCES AT CENTENARY**  
New programs for emerging careers



**INSIDE** INTRODUCING CENTENARY'S 14TH PRESIDENT

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# Family First

**Cyclone pride was front and center on Family Day, an autumn tradition at Centenary University. This year's event featured fun for all ages, including ponies, crafts, games, a wine & chocolate tasting, and a family tailgate before men's and women's soccer wins.**



University Presidents. He retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel. His wife, Jeanne, is also a veteran, retiring from the U.S. Army with the rank of colonel. Dr. Murphy taught leadership courses at West Point and was vice president for academic affairs at the U.S. Air Force's Air University in Alabama.

**"The University's passion for excellence is evident everywhere you look, from its dedicated faculty and students, to new career-focused academic programs."**

His higher education career has also included teaching posts at Vanderbilt University and Mercyhurst College, where he was the founding director of the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program and chair of the Walker School of Business. In addition, he was the founding dean of the School of Business and professor of management at Point Park University.

Dr. Murphy earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Vanderbilt University, master's degrees from Teachers College at Columbia University and the University of Southern California, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Wolfgang Gstattenbauer '84/13 HA, chair of the Centenary University Board of Trustees, noted that a thorough presidential search process resulted in more than 70 applicants for the position. The search committee was particularly impressed with Dr. Murphy's extensive background in higher education administration and thoughtful insights into growing Centenary University, he added: "While the board considered several strong candidates, Dr. Murphy impressed us, drawing on his leadership at other higher education institutions to present a thoughtful plan to lead Centenary University into a strong future."

## A New Era Begins

The Centenary University Board of Trustees has appointed Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., as the University's 14th president. Dr. Murphy will begin his tenure at Centenary on Jan. 1.

"I'm very impressed with the Centenary University community," Dr. Murphy said following his appointment. "The University's passion for excellence is evident everywhere you look, from its dedicated faculty and students, to new career-focused academic programs. I'm grateful for the board's confidence in selecting me to lead Centenary University into a new era."

An experienced higher education leader, Dr. Murphy served as the fifth president of Nicholls State University in Louisiana and is currently a consultant with the Registry for College and

# THE FUTURE U

**Meet Centenary University's Class of 2023:** smart, motivated, and ready to work hard to achieve their Future U dreams. Read on to learn why these first-year students already value the University's sharp career focus, friendly campus, and strong professional networks.



## Game Changer

Hackettstown resident Erin Nappi '23 has set her sights on a career working for the NFL or MLB. She chose Centenary for its renowned sports and entertainment management concentration within the Business Department. As a high school senior, she attended the University's

annual Sports Management Conference, a student-run event featuring representatives from professional sports teams, including many Centenary alumni. Nappi was named this year's Hackettstown Scholar, an honor that includes full tuition for four years of study at Centenary. She says, "I knew that I wanted to go into the business aspect of sports, and Centenary has a great program. The graduates all said that Centenary really set them up for their careers."



## Best of Both Worlds

For Patrick Milam '23, academics and athletics intersect at Centenary University. A lacrosse player at Voorhees High School, Milam knew he wanted to continue his athletic career in college. A visit to Centenary sealed his choice. "I met the lacrosse coach and really fell in love

with the program and campus," the Lebanon, N.J., resident recalls. Looking toward his Future U, Milam is leaning toward the University's communication, writing and design major, a program introduced last year that will allow him to focus on radio and television. As a student-athlete, he's also interested in working sports management into the mix. "I can have both at Centenary," Milam says. "This feels like the right place for me."



## Logical Career Path

When Kelly Avelino Valenzuela '23 began to explore her Future U in forensic science, one university appeared in all of her searches: Centenary University. An honor student at Dover High School, Valenzuela looked at other programs, but kept circling back to Centenary, where the University's Bachelor

of Science in Forensic Science combines studies in criminal justice and forensics with a strong science focus. Students graduate with real-world training they can immediately apply in the lab and out in the field. "I knew I wanted to go into forensic science, and I wanted to be close to home," she says. "I just love the small atmosphere here. My career path is starting at Centenary."



## Educated Choice

Centenary University's outstanding Education Department first drew Hackettstown resident Delaney Stewart '23 to take a look at her hometown University. And with good reason: Centenary is part of a 75-district network of schools whose members provide internships and

field experiences for Centenary students. Plus, more than 60 principals, superintendents, directors, and supervisors—including most of the principals in Warren County—have earned, or are currently earning, a Centenary degree. Stewart, who graduated high school in just three years, says, "My parents preferred that I stay local, so I came for a tour and really liked it. I knew that I wanted to be a teacher, and Centenary has a strong Education Department. It's the right fit."

## Back to School



Enrollment in Centenary University's graduate programs is increasing, as more adults are returning to college for advanced degrees to propel their careers to the next level. A growing number of working professionals are discovering that Centenary meets their needs for convenience and affordability, according to **Jenna Racioppi '09**, associate director of graduate programs.

Centenary recently introduced two new graduate education programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement and a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDT-C) endorsement. The ESL program is a five-course sequence that provides graduates with ESL certification, while the LDT-C endorsement encompasses nine courses and teaches professionals to diagnose and correct learning disabilities.

"I often remind prospective students that graduate school is an investment into their future," said Racioppi, who has worked with the graduate population at Centenary for the last six years. "I always ask students, 'Where do you see yourself five or 10 years from now?'"

Centenary offers frequent graduate information sessions for adults to explore the University's programs and speak one-on-one with a graduate enrollment counselor and faculty. Check out Centenary's website for more information.

## RISING IN THE RANKINGS

There's great news on the college rankings front for Centenary University. This fall, four well-known sources cited the University for excellent academic programs and the economic outcomes of graduates.

In this year's *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, Centenary placed 34th among Top Performers on Social Mobility—Regional Universities North. New in 2020, this category recognizes schools that are successful in advancing the social mobility of economically challenged students through programs that support retention and, ultimately, lead to higher graduation rates. Centenary also climbed 23 places in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges—Regional Universities North category.

Within New Jersey, Centenary was named sixth-best among the state's colleges and universities by the personal finance website, WalletHub. The website's annual rankings determine the top-performing schools at the lowest possible cost to undergraduates, considering data including selectivity, student-faculty ratio, cost and financing, graduation rate, and career outcomes.



In addition, *NJBIZ* named Centenary among the top three MBA programs in the state, based on the votes of readers. The University's third-place ranking reflects the excellence of its MBA program and the high level of satisfaction of alumni and students. Centenary is also the only New Jersey institution included in Study.com's listing of the Best Online Business Degree Programs, spotlighting 50 online programs across the nation. The annual ranking recognizes universities for high quality business programs that are accessible and affordable.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy D'Olivo, Ph.D., noted, "This recognition reinforces Centenary's excellent reputation, underscoring the things students value most about the University. With generous financial aid packages, as well as ample academic and career support, Centenary offers an educational experience that elevates the career goals of each and every student."



## Learning Revolution

World-renowned scholar Cathy N. Davidson, Ph.D., headlined this fall's Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecture Series. A distinguished professor and founding director of the Futures Institute at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, Dr. Davidson discussed "Revolutionizing Learning" on Sept. 17 in the Sitnik Theater. While on campus, she also met with students and faculty to advocate for creative, active learning that builds essential career skills.



Science Department Chair Krassi Lazarova, Ph.D., advises students.



Summer research at the Jersey Shore



Studying sea life in Florida



Feeding giraffes at the Six Flags Great Adventure Safari

**New programs  
for emerging  
careers**

# SCIENCES AT CENTENARY



Lions and tigers and bears—it's all part of the learning experience for aspiring veterinarians at Centenary University. Less than two months into their Centenary University studies, 21 freshmen began their career exploration on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Six Flags Great Adventure Safari in Jackson, N.J. There, they were introduced to animals they'd likely treat if they choose to work at a zoo.

The students are enrolled in Centenary's new Bachelor of Science in Animal Health, a rigorous program that prepares them to apply to veterinary school or launch a career in animal-related professions. A hallmark of the program is providing immersive experiences to help students explore the many career possibilities within the field.

Animal health is one of several new science initiatives introduced at Centenary in recent years. With two pre-vet concentrations—in small animals and equine—the program draws on the strengths of the University's highly-regarded Science and Equine Studies departments. In addition, Centenary introduced a degree in medical laboratory science (see page 7) this year, and has advanced its reputation in environmental and forensic science.

The new science programs are the direct result of a University-wide strategic review that began five years ago to evaluate the effectiveness of academic offerings in meeting current and projected workforce needs. The in-depth process made clear that Centenary's established strengths perfectly position the University for growth in the sciences.

"The program analysis process showed that there is great potential growth in the sciences, particularly in health sciences," explained Krassi Lazarova, Ph.D., Science

Department chair and an associate professor of physics. "Next, we looked at our expertise here at Centenary to tap into existing programs that could provide the basis for some of these new offerings."

Capturing synergies between departments is key, Dr. Lazarova emphasized. For instance, current courses in the social and behavioral sciences, as well as business, can be easily adapted as foundational classes within new programs. Existing strengths in biology, physics, and chemistry also provide a solid base for new science offerings.

A common thread that distinguishes the University's science programs is an emphasis on active learning, particularly the opportunity for students to participate in research alongside Centenary faculty members. Lauren Bergey, Ph.D., professor of biology and dean of special academic programs, often collaborates with students on research, including a project last summer on invasive Japanese shrimp invading New Jersey waterways. This took Dr. Bergey and her students to several sites on the Jersey Shore. They plan to present their findings in January at an international conference in Texas. Two of Dr. Bergey's students also spent several weeks studying sea life at Florida's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute last summer.

"When students just read about research in a textbook, they're seeing the final product of many years of work. They don't see the challenges encountered by the researchers," Dr. Bergey said. "Research experiences allow them to apply the scientific method. This hands-on work lets them fail, and then come up with alternatives that advance the research."

The University's nearby Environmental Science Center, often referred to as the "lab in the woods," provides the perfect



Behind the scenes at the Six Flags Great Adventure Safari veterinary clinic

location for students to conduct field work, according to Julie LaBar, Ph.D., assistant professor of environmental science. “It’s a huge positive for Centenary and our students,” explained Dr. LaBar, a trustee of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. “This unique lab station allows students to do field work right outside the classroom. Centenary is in a great location in New Jersey, where students can get out to experience the environment and consider the problems that must be solved.”

Centenary now offers a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, with a focus on stewardship, sustainability, human health, and the broader global impact of local actions. As part of this program, the University has established the Center of Sustainability, which features a cooperative venture between the Science and Business departments on a minor in sustainable business practices.

While fieldwork is essential, the foundation of any science program is meaningful lab work. At Centenary, lab sizes are capped at 24 students to ensure that each participant receives direct, hands-on training that cultivates inquiry and solid lab skills. Many students enrich their education through work-study jobs in the labs, where duties include setting up equipment, making solutions and cultures used by classes, and organizing chemicals—skills employers seek in new hires.

“It’s the practical, hands-on skills that separate Centenary graduates when it comes to getting a job or acceptance to professional schools,” said Tammy Quasius, science laboratory technician. “When they’re prepping a lab, they look at it in a different way and share their feedback with the department. We’re developing scientists, so we collaborate with our students as scientists.”

Jesslyn Bryk-Lucy, D.V.M., the University’s resident veterinarian and assistant professor of equine studies, follows the same philosophy at the Centenary University Equestrian Center in Long Valley, N.J. As she treats the University’s horses, students are right there, putting what they’ve learned in the classroom to work and using the University’s diagnostic equipment, including new ultrasound and MRI technology. “That’s a huge draw for our program,” Dr. Bryk-Lucy explained. “Here at Centenary, students can see how a case presents, and they’re exposed to technologies and techniques they wouldn’t experience at a larger school. To me, learning through experience is more memorable.”

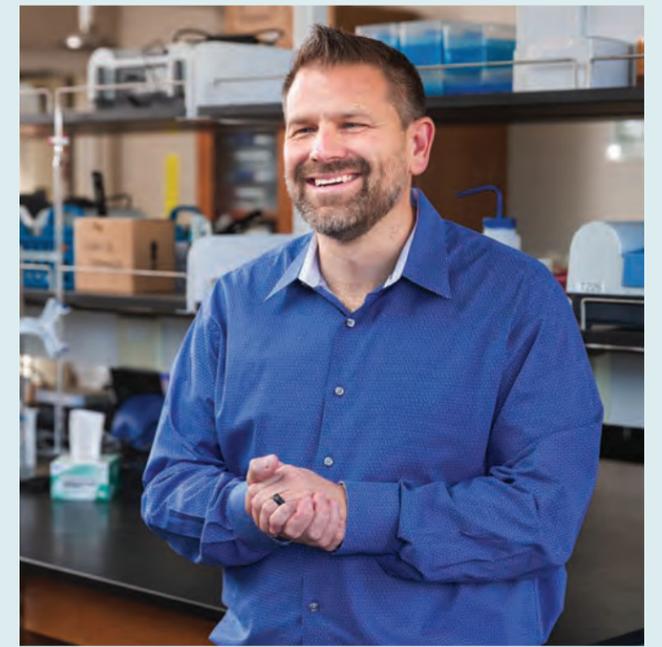
Every year, Centenary’s science faculty assess learning outcomes to refine the curriculum, with a goal to align student experiences and skills with employers’ expectations. The result: Centenary’s science graduates go on to excel in a variety of fields, from medical and pharmaceutical research to veterinary medicine, forensics, and many more.

**“It’s the practical, hands-on skills that separate Centenary graduates when it comes to getting a job or acceptance to professional schools.”**

Opportunities like the trip to the Six Flags Great Adventure Safari are the first step in helping students to define their career goals. While onsite at the theme park, Centenary’s students visited the veterinary clinic and met with Ken Keiffer, D.V.M., a longtime Six Flags veterinarian. Dr. Keiffer also introduced the group to one of the park’s veterinary technicians and an intern who is currently attending veterinary school. The students observed several animals under Dr. Keiffer’s care and got a first-person account of the day-to-day life of an exotic animal veterinarian.

It’s extremely valuable input for students who are finalizing career goals, Dr. Keiffer said: “This gives students a glimpse of what we do on a daily basis. It’s much more beneficial now if I can have them reaffirm their dreams or discover it’s not what they want to do.”

All Centenary science students are held to extremely high standards. “Our programs are tough,” Dr. Lazarova noted. “Centenary students have to work hard, and at the end they are successful. We’re growing because we have a great team, who are willing to go the extra mile. That makes a huge difference in student success. It’s a big reason why Centenary is a true gem in the sciences.”



## Making Strides in Health Science

Centenary University is embarking on a new initiative in health-related sciences, responding to a critical need in the job market for trained professionals to staff these growing fields. The first program, a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science, launched this fall and returns a once-popular academic program to Centenary.

Demand is skyrocketing for trained professionals to work in hospitals, forensic labs, and industrial research facilities, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 13% job growth by 2026. Craig Fuller, Ph.D., director of Centenary’s medical lab science program, has experienced that need firsthand during a previous career in the medical industry. “A large number of individuals working in labs are of retirement age,” explained Dr. Fuller. “Centenary’s program provides great opportunities for students who love medicine, but don’t necessarily want to be a doctor or treat patients.”

The University has partnered with Atlantic Healthcare to develop the program. The partnership will enable Centenary students to complete clinicals at Atlantic Healthcare labs boasting some of the world’s most cutting-edge technologies.

Looking to the future, Centenary is developing plans to expand its reach in the health sciences over the next several years. A new Bachelor of Science in Health Science could start as early as next fall, and a master’s program in occupational therapy has a preliminary target launch date of 2026. In response to increasing requests from student-athletes, the University is also exploring the feasibility of adding a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science.

The process will proceed within the context of strategic reflection, drawing on the University’s existing strengths in the sciences and related majors, said Krassi Lazarova, Ph.D., Science Department chair. “Our goal is to grow Centenary’s reputation in the health sciences following a solid, manageable direction.”



**Centenary is introducing a new core curriculum.**

**Robert:** The new core will roll out for the Class of 2024 next August. We had an aggressive deadline to have it approved by the faculty in one academic year, and we accomplished that. This core is more structured and focused on career readiness across four categories: Centenary University Values; Communication; STEM Engagement; and Community, Citizenship, and Selves. Students will choose courses from within those categories, and every class must meet the outcomes of the core in a meaningful way. It is laid out in such a way that students can see very clearly what they're doing and why they're doing it.

Our current core is more than 10 years old, and Middle States—the accrediting body for colleges and universities—has changed its standards. Students have changed, too. Today's students have experienced the recession in 2008; some were dispossessed of their homes as kids or saw that happen to friends. As a result, they're very practical. They want to know that they'll get a job after graduation. It was so important for us to align the core with the career needs of students and employers.

**How did you arrive at the core requirements?**

**Linda:** The core is firmly grounded in qualitative research. We had a 19-person committee comprised of faculty, administrators, and staff divided into eight committees to focus on distinct topics. The process considered input from every stakeholder group that would be interested in the core. The

committees talked to students, faculty, alumni, people with disabilities, organizations, and corporations that are hiring our graduates. Every group had an equal voice. One committee looked at 50 core curricula from other schools. Others studied graduate school requirements and community colleges. We took all of the data and coded it so we could identify patterns.

Some things kept coming up over and over—critical thinking, public speaking, communication skills, problem solving, teamwork, leadership, cultural competence, project planning. That's when you know you're onto a solid concept. What our internal committees found aligned perfectly with what employers were saying. These are the skills graduates have always needed in the workplace, but now we've got research to back up our decisions on the courses that will be included in the core.

**What about the liberal arts?**

**Robert:** I'm a humanities professor, and I firmly believe, as do my colleagues on the faculty, that the liberal arts are important in developing the very skills that kept popping up in our research. So there's a lot of intersection between the strength of the liberal arts and the skills employers are demanding in the workplace. What I love about the new core is that it's saying that the experience of thinking critically, learning how to work in a team, and communicating well are essential to landing your first job.

Families with high cultural capital may be willing to invest in a purely liberal arts experience. They're willing to wait a decade for those big-picture skills to earn 401k benefits! But few of our students have the luxury of such forgiving expectations. We

have a responsibility to give them career skills to land their first job. But this core also lets us provide some of that liberal arts experience to set them on a lifelong trajectory that will lead to their third, fifth, and 10th jobs. Providing the liberal arts breadth and scope, but also the specific job readiness of the major—that's the genius of Centenary.

**Tell us about some of the new courses.**

**Linda:** When we developed the new course categories, we revised desired outcomes to address what we found in our research. Now, we're taking a look at the courses that will achieve those outcomes. There's a new course called Professional Development: The Nature of Work, to give students experience in things like refining career goals, networking, internships, financial literacy, and the job search process. Bottom line: We need to prepare our students for a career. On that note, there's also a new Public Speaking course; faculty and alumni told us there is a real need for that. In addition, there's a wellness component to the core, teaching things like stress management and healthy sleep habits. Those things may seem obvious, but they have real consequences, in the classroom and after graduation.

One of the most exciting additions to the core is a course called Topic of Broad, Enduring Interest. It's an in-depth analysis of a topic to stimulate and excite students to engage them in learning, and of course, in the Centenary community. The topic at the heart of each class will be a big idea that students will look at from a number of interdisciplinary perspectives. It's a very concrete way to provide the depth of the liberal arts that's so important, as Robert mentioned.

**Diversity was key, too.**

**Robert:** There was general agreement that the new core needed to deal with issues of diversity and inclusion. The question became, do we have a separate class or should we incorporate it across the curriculum? We want students to reflect upon cultural, intellectual, and political changes over time, in particular as they pertain to histories of oppression and exclusion, and to develop cultural understanding within a global context. Our graduates need to understand that they will make an impact, and they must decide whether that impact is for good or ill. These are complicated issues that can't be checked off in a two-credit class. To emphasize the importance of diversity, we decided to work diversity and inclusion into multiple courses.

**Was this a complicated process?**

**Robert:** I think Centenary's vice president for academic affairs, Amy D'Olivo, Ph.D., chose

Linda and me to chair the committee to make the process more inclusive. Male/female, humanities/business: Linda and I came at this from very different perspectives. We made a conscious effort to model—for the task force and the faculty who ultimately voted to approve the core—these different perspectives coming together, listening, and respecting each other. As a humanities professor, I was thinking that the point of college is interdisciplinary and critical thought. Linda was thinking, "That's nice, but can the students write a resume, network, and interview?" Both are equally valid to the Centenary experience. It was an exemplary moment of compromise.

**Linda:** What I think really made it work was that faculty and staff worked on this together. It's an important topic—what are we going to be teaching our students in the future? You saw the real benefits of faculty and staff interacting and respecting each other's expertise. The whole time, the process was based on trust and just being able to put your own ideas forth, for us to debate them, for it to be comfortable and accepting. The sense of the task force was that we were creating something better for our students, and in turn, that meant creating something better for Centenary University.

*Robert Battistini, Ph.D., is an associate professor of English at Centenary University. He holds an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.*

*Linda Poisseroux, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of business at Centenary University and director of Enactus, the University's competitive business team. She holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Montclair State University and a doctoral degree from Capella University.*

**Core Facts**

**1. THE SPECIFICS**

The new core curriculum is 40 credits, and includes a mix of courses across four categories. It will launch in August 2020 for the Class of 2024.

**2. TEAM EFFORT**

Dr. Battistini on approval by the faculty: "We had town hall meetings and breakout sessions to get it out there in front of everybody... that's what made the difference. We wanted everyone to have ample opportunity to voice their opinions ahead of the core vote."

**3. FIRST REPORTS**

The new core has already created excitement, says Dr. Poisseroux: "I had a lot of Enactus students graduate in May. They told me, 'Wow, I wish we had classes like these!' That is very special to me."

# Greatest Good

There are lots of great reasons to support The Centenary Fund.

## HERE ARE OUR TOP 5:

### 1. Your gift makes an immediate impact.

Your gift to The Centenary Fund goes to work right away, building a stronger Future U for Centenary University and its students. That's because these unrestricted gifts are used in the same fiscal year in which they're donated. Your contribution is pooled with those of other donors, providing the University with the flexibility to allocate funds where and when they're needed most. Each year, gifts to the annual fund provide for student scholarships, new academic programs, opportunities for research and leadership, and upgrades to facilities.

Through the annual fund, your gift makes the biggest impact on the greatest number of students. "It's similar to the concept of compounding interest," explains Faith Linsky, senior director of development and alumni & parent relations. "You may think your gift is modest, and alone, can't accomplish a lot. Yet, together with gifts from others, its importance grows exponentially."

### 2. Scholarship students will thank you.

A big focus of The Centenary Fund is making sure that a Centenary University education is accessible to all students. It's an important part of our mission: 99% of Centenary University students rely on grants and scholarships to attend college.

One of those students is Newark resident Ellis M. Brown '22. The son of a hardworking mom, Brown grew up in a neighborhood where street violence is prevalent and many teens don't have the opportunity to attend college. Thanks to a scholarship through Fulton Bank, Brown is a Cyclone student-athlete who is also active in student government—activities he credits with helping to build integrity and leadership.

**"You may think your gift is modest, and alone, can't accomplish a lot. Yet, together with gifts from others, its importance grows exponentially."**

A criminal justice major, Brown has set his sights on attending law school or entering the military. In a recent letter thanking donors, he wrote, "This scholarship means a lot because you have recognized me as a hardworking student who will not let you down. I take great pride in my abilities and I am ready to show you that I am an achiever. Thank you for helping me further my education and for reaffirming my dream."

### 3. Centenary University's reputation will grow...

Your gift plays a direct role in building Centenary's reputation for excellence, in the Northeast and across the nation. Many alumni are surprised to learn that a key component of some college rankings, like those in *U.S.*

*News & World Report*, is the percentage of alumni who give to the institution. A strong base of alumni giving signals that graduates value the education they received at Centenary.

Beyond national surveys, consistent alumni giving helps the University to plan for the future. Denton Stargel, vice president for business & finance/chief financial officer, says, "A key component of prudent, long-range planning is knowing that Centenary can depend on annual gifts from donors, especially loyal alumni. When you make an annual gift to The Centenary Fund, you're contributing to the financial stability of the University."

### 4. ...and that increases the value of your degree.

When a university is highly-respected, so are its graduates—and that translates into an advantage in the job market. As a result, your investment in The Centenary Fund protects the investment our alumni have made in their college degrees.

**"When you make an annual gift to The Centenary Fund, you're contributing to the financial stability of the University."**

Joshua D. Walker '10, director of career development and community engagement, notes that Centenary graduates are highly regarded in the job market. Employers know that the University's alumni are well-trained in their respective majors, and are also proficient in skills like critical thinking, effective communication, and collaboration. "As the Career Development Office evolves to meet the needs of the changing job market, we rely on financial flexibility to pivot quickly in support of our students," Walker said. "Contributions to the annual fund are critical for making that student support a reality."

### 5. You're building a better world.

When you support The Centenary Fund, your contribution ripples far beyond our campus. As a Methodist-affiliated University, service to others is crucial to our mission. Cyclones like Rachel Danitz '18 are committed to building stronger communities, locally and around the world. In her role as community engagement coordinator at Centenary, Danitz has set a goal for the Centenary community to log 50,000 volunteer hours over five years.

We're well on our way toward achieving that goal, through Midnight Run, international service trips, and volunteer projects closer to home. This fall, Danitz and a group of Centenary students marked the National Day of Service honoring 9/11 victims with volunteer service at the South Branch Preserve Community Garden in Budd Lake, Liberty State Park in Jersey City, and the Jersey City Veterans Cemetery.

## New Donors: Give Your Year!

Want to support The Centenary Fund, but not sure where to start? Check out our new **Give Your Year! campaign**, especially for first-time donors.

The campaign goal is simple: increase the number of first-time donors to the University. If you've never given before, we're encouraging you to support Centenary by making a contribution that matches your graduation or your reunion year. For instance, **new donors from the Class of 1995 would give \$19.95**, while the **Class of 2019 would contribute \$20.19**. To give your reunion year, for example, new donors from the Class of 1969 would give \$50 to mark their 50th reunion. Of course, if you'd like to give more, that's wonderful! It's a great way to honor your graduation year and an important first step in supporting your *alma mater*.

Remember, all gifts—large and small—are important in building a stronger Future U for Centenary University and our students.

Let's see which class can score the highest percentage of alumni giving!

**Give Now**

alumni2.centenaryuniversity.edu/  
givenow

# Game On!

“Our Diamond of Dreams” is now a reality. Centenary University cut the ribbon on a new state-of-the-art baseball complex during a ceremony on Oct. 5. The facility provides an on-campus home for the Cyclone baseball team, the University’s largest NCAA Division III sport. Honored guest for the event was **Steve Somers '19 HA**, who with his wife, Sharon, was lead donor for the new complex. Fittingly, the first game played on the field pitted Centenary baseball alumni against our current Cyclones.



**CENTENARY UNIVERSITY**

**Our Diamond of Dreams**

Centenary University is extremely grateful to Stephen M. and Sharon Somers for their extraordinary philanthropy as lead donors to Centenary's new baseball complex, "Our Diamond of Dreams," and to the following individuals and corporations who have made this project possible through their generous support.

**LEAD DONORS**

Steve '19 HA and Sharon Somers      The Reeves Foundation

**GRANDSTANDS**

Dr. Stephanie Bennett-Smith '01 HA      M. Alden '14 HA & Doll Siegel '59

**DUGOUTS**

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Baseball for Tomorrow Fund      Panther Pub/  
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**BULLPENS**

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**FOUL BALL POLES**

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Tracy L. Thompson      Maser Consulting      Wilco Towers      Centenary University Executive Staff

John Johnson      Automotive Group



Photo credit: Jenna Glinko '23

## Fall Sports Roundup

The fall season saw plenty of success for the Centenary University Athletic Department, as four teams competed in their respective Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Tournaments.

Head Coach Josh Spivack and the men's soccer team earned the No. 1 seed in the CSAC Tournament in a competitive three-way race that went down to the final day of the regular season. The Cyclones were tripped up by Rosemont College in the CSAC semifinals in a game that came down to penalty kicks. Head Coach Kevin Davies and the women's soccer team earned the No. 2 seed in the playoffs, but fell in the semifinals. In field hockey action, Head Coach **Stephen Speirs '07** and the team made the conference tournament in their first season, but ultimately fell in the semifinals. Leading the cross country team was **Cassidy Haller '20**, who finished sixth in the CSAC Championship.

Plenty of Cyclones were honored when the CSAC announced its end-of-the-year awards in each sport. Highlighting the student-athletes recognized were **Tom Parry '21**, named the CSAC Men's Soccer Player of the Year, and **Jordan Vandermark '23**, the CSAC's Field Hockey Rookie of the Year. Seven Cyclones were named First Team All-CSAC in their respective sports.



## Pitch Perfect

Field hockey returned to Centenary this year with experienced Head Coach **Stephen Speirs '07** at the helm. A standout coach at Hackettstown High School, Speirs led his previous team to a host of conference and tournament titles, as well as several appearances in the NJSIAA semifinals. Now, he looks to repeat that success with the Cyclones in Colonial States Athletic Conference action: “We’ve had great support from the University and the alumnae who once played for Centenary. It’s exciting to have the opportunity to build this program from the ground up.”

## Let us know what's new!

Send us your news and keep up to date with classmates. Class News and Notes may be edited to reflect *The Centenarian's* guidelines and space constraints. For class agent contact information, please call Elizabeth Freeman at (908) 852-1400, ext. 2253.

### 1945

**Barbara Wheatley Murray**  
89 Kensington Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
914-337-2134

**Barbara Wheatley Murray** writes: "Hello, girls. I say that, although many of us are now in our 90s.

"**Clara Correll Bolger** lives in Virginia and is still active. Her oldest daughter, a prominent archaeologist, lives in England. Her two other daughters are graphic designers and live in New York.

"**Florence Harbosch** has come East and now lives in a lovely assisted living residence in Wilmington, N.C., near her daughter. She welcomes news from classmates. Please contact her at: 630 Carolina Bay Drive, Apt. 301, Wilmington, N.C. 28403-0024. My roommate **Phoebe Parry-Jones Tyler's** grandson, Alex Zamaria, just got engaged. He is a very accomplished young man. Wish Parry could be here to see him. Keep writing!"

### 1949

**Florence Austerlough Larson**  
2773 Dahlia Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92154  
619-955-3995  
Florence Larson2@aol.com

**Florence Austerlough Larson** writes: "In September, I went to visit my sister in New Jersey. We went to see all the houses, schools, and church where we grew up and had lunch with four cousins—a real trip down memory lane. In November, I will go on a trip to Israel with a church group that my son is leading.

"**Deborah Ettinger Moss** turned 90 and had family come to her independent living place for a nice dinner celebration. Her daughter had a cake made with an edible picture on it of Debby and her Papillon dog. In addition, her daughter made a moving digital picture frame with pictures of Debby, friends, and relatives. Debby is glad to still have her 15-year-old dog; it is good therapy because Debby has to feed and take out the dog several times a day.

"**Carol Brown Robinson** likes her retirement home, takes part in activities, goes out to lunch and dinner once a month, and attends church on Sunday. She likes to greet new people and get them started doing things. She has a friend she walks with and enjoys reading different kinds of books. Carol has four children who take her places at different times.

"**Margaret Pfeiffer McCann** recently wrote, 'What can I say about life at the Manor?' She is still living and enjoying life, but there are not many to talk to who remember. She exercises every day and reads a lot. Margaret is surprised that 'our dear school' has expanded to the extent that it has.

"**Audrey Henn Nawoschik** is going to the wedding of her daughter, Eva, in New York. Audrey has two great-grandchildren, a boy and a girl. She joined her family at her son's house at the Jersey Shore in the summer.

"**Nancy Morell McClatchie** has four grandchildren she sees often. She has been cutting down on some of her activities. She goes to church every Sunday and helps the minister with a garden, growing fruit and flowers."

**Nancy Hendee Pain** writes: "This is

my favorite time on the Outer Banks. The weather is beautiful and there are fewer people. I spent a lively weekend in Philadelphia at my last granddaughter's wedding. It was beautiful and so nice to see so many members of my family. I am well and still in the billiards league and enjoying my painting class. Best wishes to all."

**Betty Poppele Barrett** writes: "My husband passed away several years ago and I am still living in my house. I stay active with my antiques business, which has declined since the arrival of the internet. My daughter and I have kept involved doing antique doll shows, so I don't have time to think about moving just yet. In February, I enjoyed a week's vacation in the Bahamas with my daughter and her family. We stayed at the Atlantis, which is a huge resort. Because I had a hip replacement, I rented a wheelchair, which was a big help getting to the various restaurants and beaches. In April, I had major surgery and my son and daughter assisted me with my recovery, which took about two months. I'm all healed now and feeling better and will resume with the antique doll shows. My five grandchildren are grown and only one is married. I have a great-grandson, Teddy, who is 2 years old and provides us with lots of entertainment. My two children who live close by check in on me every day. Life is good!"

### 1953

**Beverly Oetjen Imgund**  
537 Sophee Lane  
Lakewood, NJ 08701-6244  
JohnBev56@aol.com

**Beverly Oetjen Imgund** writes: "**Nancy Cunningham Paris** reported that she spoke with **Dixie Wilson Bolte**, who lives in Stuart, Fla. Dixie is doing well and gets to see her two sons and daughter often. Nancy hopes to see Dixie if she gets to Florida next year.

"Our Class News is printed every six months. It's fun to hear about each other. I've tried to e-mail some of you from the list I was given, to no avail.

You can either email me at any time or just message me on Facebook—"Beverly Imgund"—and I'll save your info. for the next printing."

**Shirley Williams Duerr** writes: "Dick and I are fine and looking forward to our 65th anniversary on Jan. 22. Last month, we flew with our daughter to Martha's Vineyard to visit my brother and sister-in-law. We enjoy living in Sierra Canyon, a Del Webb Community in Reno, Nev., which is in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains. We live only 10 minutes away from our son and daughter-in-law, and 3 1/2 hours from our daughter and her family, who have retired to a small vineyard in Healdsburg, Calif. Greetings to all in our Class of '53!"

### 1959

**Ann Hufnagel Rafferty**  
238 Ash Point Drive  
Owls Head, ME 04854-3522  
annrafferty24@gmail.com

**Ann Hufnagel Rafferty** writes: "I am having a busy and fun time living here in Owls Head, Maine. I work at the Rockland Public Library in the used book store as a volunteer and am a board member. Volunteering at the Owls Head Historical Society also keeps me busy. We are hoping to build a museum for the donated pieces of history of Owls Head. I am lucky to have one of my sons living up here with his wife and daughter. Hope all are well in my class."

### 1960

**Gail Sylvester Longstreth**  
239 Halemaumau St.  
Honolulu, HI 96821-2055  
rlongstreth@hawaii.rr.com

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Stanley Thomas**  
2206 Solmar Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301-384-8104  
betsythms@aol.com

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Stanley Thomas** writes: "Paul and I are still in Silver Spring, Md., where I grew up. Our daughter, Susan, lives about 25 minutes

away. She and Steve are parents to our granddaughter, Paige, who is a senior at the University of Maryland majoring in sports journalism. Our son, Brad, lives on Long Island, N.Y., with his wife and our younger grandson, Carter, 17. Our grandson, Ethan, 20, lives in North Carolina with his mom. Life is busy for us. We travel some, mostly on trips with the Smithsonian. We putter in the garden, take care of our four-bedroom home, and read. I still serve on church committees, belong to two book clubs, play bridge, knit, crochet, and cross-stitch, walk in the nearby woods, and lunch with friends. Life is good."

"I talked to **Janine Evans Brothers**. She is doing well in Wolfeboro, N.H., where she and her husband, Doug, moved several years ago. She sent along a photo of herself with Doug, and one of her with **Gerry Mace Murphy**, and **Ann Dothard Walters** taken in October 2015. The three of them look great.

"**Suzie Wyatt Maurer** writes that she has been married 58 years and catches up with roommate **Jeanne Ball Maurer**. You've got that right—same last names; they married cousins. Suzie and Woody moved from Rome, N.Y., to Vero Beach, Fla., in 1994. They travel back to Rome for several weeks in the summer to see their son and his family, Keira, 13, and Blake, 11, and Erin, son Jack's wife.' As you see in the photo, they have traveled extensively with the other three roommates from second floor North. They have cruised together to the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Australia, and New Zealand. Now, they are looking forward to a cruise in Russia next August. Together, they have also visited Puerto Vallarta, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Sedona, Ariz., and the Thousand Islands with the roomie group. In Vero Beach, Suzie and Woody live in a gated golf community with lots of friends around and many activities. Suzie does water aerobics, plays mah-jongg and Bunco, and goes to dinner clubs and a book club. Their daughter, Linda, lives nearby. Suzie wrote a diary book, which she is hoping to publish, telling about the two summers she spent working in Hollywood, Calif., in movies and television in 1959 and 1960. She tells about her wonderful times at Centenary, too. The working title is *Hollywood, Elvis and Me*. Maybe someday Susie will come back to Centenary University on a book tour to promote her book.

"**Gerry Mace Murphy** is still in the Atlanta, Ga., area. She keeps up with **Ann Dothard Walters**, **Gail Christiansen Marie-Stewart**, and **Janine Evans Brothers**, all from first floor South our freshman year. She remarked about what a small world it is as her sister ran into **Mary Dee Ives Samuels** in San Rafael, Calif. After Centenary, Dee

finished college and got her law degree in California. Dee's husband passed away recently. Gerry sent a photo of her sister, Ginny Mace Moore, with **Mary Dee Ives Samuels**.

"I heard by phone from **Joyce Murdock Winston** recently to tell me that her husband, John Michael Winston, passed away suddenly early in September. Mickey had been a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and turned to piloting commercial airliners after retiring. This is a big loss for Joy. As she plans for the future, Joy may return to New Jersey to be near her oldest two daughters, Kierstie and Allison. The youngest daughter, Jessica, lives in Boise, Idaho. Joy has two granddaughters and three grandsons."

**Barrie Allison** writes: "It was nice seeing the email addresses of everyone and trying to guess who they are. I retired from Kaiser Permanente (nursing management) in 1998, and then took a part-time job in the Marin County jail screening inmates for custody. I have been in the Bay Area since 1966. I have been living in Indio, Calif. (Palm Springs) in a 55 and older community since 2008. It is easy to get spoiled. I play golf four to five days a week and feel good to still have a 19.0 handicap. The ball does not go as far, but I sure have fun golfing with friends. I enjoy all activities here: swimming, cards, happy hours, traveling, and volunteering at Living Desert, First Tee, and an Alzheimer's unit. I spend the summer months in Northern California, since the desert is too hot. I hope everyone is well. It's hard to believe I will soon be 80."

**Ann Lang Hamilton** writes: "It's great to catch up with Centenarians again! I retired (but prefer rewired) from 33 years as executive director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at the end of 2016, and bought a condo in my town of Greenfield, Mass. Downsizing and moving from a large 1898 Victorian after 42 years was very difficult and took me almost three years. Now it's over and all I need is a buyer. Our older son, Andrew, is a teacher/administrator, who lives with his family on Cape Cod. Our daughter is a surgical nurse and lives near me in Deerfield, Mass. They have two daughters: Celia is a junior at Simmons College in Boston and Tori is a high school senior. Younger son Duncan has fulfilled a lifelong dream and now owns the Blue Hill Inn in Blue Hill, Maine. Previously, he was a general manager for Kimpton Hotels in Portland, Ore. I have a summer house near Blue Hill and see **Alex Ephrussi Kirkpatrick** and **Diana Beck**, roommates in our class, who both live in the area. And I am so grateful that my roommate, **Bev Ekins Gervais**, and I have remained close and see each

## Sage Advice



Each year, graduates from the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) program return to Centenary University to provide advice on careers and applying to graduate school. Held on Oct. 29, the sixth annual event drew 11 alumni and a host of students. "Centenary's B.S.W. is very well respected in the state," said Terri Klemm, D.S.W., B.S.W. program director. "One of the things that is so powerful about our program is the cohort model. Our students support each other through what is a really rigorous program. Networking at events like this is so important, to our students and our graduates."

**Lily Passaretti '18** earned her Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) from Columbia University last spring, and works as director of legislative affairs for New Jersey Assemblyman Raj Mukherji: "Centenary did a phenomenal job of covering all aspects of the field, including policy, community organizing, and clinical practice. I think the diversity and background of the faculty here make a huge difference."

other every few years. I have traveled extensively, play duplicate bridge, miss my friends who have migrated South, but am now content to do volunteer work and work on my memoirs. I would love email from any classmates interested in corresponding."

**Gail Sylvester Longstreth** writes: "Here is a recent photo of me for the class news (page 14, left). Since I live so

far away, I never get to a reunion, so maybe the ladies would like to see what I look like now. I have become a 24/7 caregiver for my darling 94-year-old hubby and our 10-year-old miniature Australian shepherd, but still manage to play duplicate bridge and volunteer at the Hawaii Opera Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, and Shriners Hospital for Children. I get off-island three times



From left to right: Gail Sylvester Longstreth; Mary Dee Ives Samuels (left) and Ginny Mace Moore; George and Ann Dothard Walters; Doug and Janine Evans Brothers; Gerry Mace Murphy, Janine Evans Brothers, and Ann Dothard Walters

## The Scoop on Healthy Ice Cream



Think ice cream can't be healthy? Think again. **Kyle Peters '15**, owner and founder of Six-Pack Creamery, has created a new protein-rich, non-GMO frozen confection that's sure to please. Peters is committed to producing ice cream that's more balanced nutritionally than competitors, with more protein and less fat and sugar. The key to Six-Pack Creamery's success starts with the ingredients: all

are non-GMO and all natural, with no corn syrup or artificial additives.

Six-Pack Creamery launched its first two flavors, Lean Mean Vanilla Bean and Cocoa Milk Muscles, last fall. Just a year later, Peters is shipping to nutrition centers in three states, and takes mail orders via the website [sixpackcreamery.com](http://sixpackcreamery.com). In addition, Fit Freeze, a new soft-serve product, is shaping up to go cone-to-cone with national competitors.

While at Centenary University, Peters majored in business with a concentration in marketing. As a sophomore, he and a classmate launched their own short-lived clothing firm. "Fashion isn't really my thing and I found that if there's no passion behind the business, it just won't work," recalled Peters, a lacrosse player in college. "It was a great learning experience about who I am."

While Peters attended Centenary, his mother was battling colon cancer. Treatments often left her ill, and one of the few things she could eat was ice cream, which had little nutritional value. "It would help her sore throat, but was jacked with sugar, and protein shakes are lackluster," said the health-conscious Peters. "You always want to put your body in the best position for success."

Following his mother's death in 2016, Peters worked through his grief in the kitchen, buying a Cuisinart and experimenting with ice cream. By August 2018, he was ready to bring his first products to market. A little more than a year later, Six-Pack Creamery products are sold in a number of GNCs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, co-ops, and even a store in Tennessee.

Now, Peters is working to grow the brand by marketing Fit Freeze to institutions including universities, hospitals, and retirement homes, as well as restaurants and sports arenas. "I sure hope my mom is looking down proud," he said. "She definitely lives on through the brand."

a year to perform all over the United States and Canada with my amateur hula troupe. Last year, I got back to visit my sister, **Sheri Sylvester Barry '65**, at her home in Fort Myers, Fla. Classmates I hear from now and then include **Ann Dothard Walters** and **Susan Andrews Taylor**. I love living in Hawaii, but I miss the fall season in New Jersey. This time of year brings back wonderful memories of walking up Jefferson Street among the crunching autumn leaves. I always enjoy the class news, and wish more ladies would write in and send photos. Aloha!"

**Nancy Baker Martin** writes: "Skip and I live in Lost Tree Village in North Palm Beach, Fla., for six months of the year and in Manchester, Vt., in the summer. Gone are the New York days of raising children and work! We are both avid golfers and play in both locations. We're not hitting the ball as far as we did years ago, but our enjoyment is special and wonderful. We have done some traveling, but mostly we enjoy all our grandchildren and wonderful friends. For several years in a row, I got together with **Birdie Payer**, **Linda Berlinger Burke**, **Judy Calvert Yerkes**, **Ann Dothard Walters**, and **Sara Leon Broadbent**. We have traveled to each other's homes and also met at halfway points. It was just like we were still in college. I try to keep in touch with **Susie Gerhardy Gebhardt** and **Anne Morris Futch**. Skip and I have three boys with six grandchildren—one boy and five girls. They range in age from 22 to 2. Hope that keeps us young!"

**Ann Dothard Walters** writes: "We moved again for the third time in six years, on Oct. 21. I'm getting good at it! But I'm not moving out of Naples—I've been here 47 years. I'm downsizing to another rental condo. I'm calling it a transition. I have five awesome grandchildren, but news about one is so exciting: my daughter's son is playing professional volleyball in Rottenburg, Germany. Kurt has been there since August and their season began in October. He played college volleyball at UC Irvine. I keep in touch with my roommate, **Janine Evans Brothers**, as well as **Gerry Mace Murphy**, **Gail Christiansen Marie-Stewart**, **Linda Berlinger Burke**, **Verna "Birdie" Payer Buchs**, and **Judy Calvert Yerkes**."

**Jean Ball Maurer** writes: "We live half of the year in Florida and the other half in Kansas City. All of our family live in the Kansas City area. We have two married children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. All are so special. Spencer and I spend most of our time playing golf and visiting family and friends. We travel some each year and see a lot of **Suzie Wyatt Maurer** and her husband, **Woody**, **Judy Waters Prochko**

and her husband, **Bob**, and **Brenda Bailey Carter**. We have taken a number of cruises together. In August, Suzanne and **Woody** and **Spence** and I are going to Russia. Next year, **Spence** and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. How time flies. Love to all my former classmates."

### 1961

**Joyce Fierro Velzey '61**  
1253 NW Bentley Cir Apt A  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-1846  
(914) 666-5328  
[joyvelz@juno.com](mailto:joyvelz@juno.com)



Jim Bell and Missy Keely Bell with Nancy Heimert Zabka and Stan Zabka

### 1963

**Ellen Fiencke Whitaker**  
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Manlius, NY 13104-1011  
[ellenwhitaker.ny@gmail.com](mailto:ellenwhitaker.ny@gmail.com)

**Ellen Fiencke Whitaker** writes: "I had a sad, but beautiful, phone conversation with Ken Winter, husband of **Karen Weingartner Winter**. Our beautiful, sweet Karen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease several years ago and is now living in a skilled nursing care facility. Her mother and grandmother, likewise, were stricken with this debilitating disease before her. "Ken has lunch with Karen every day and reads to her from a publication, *Daily Bread*, which she enjoys. They spend their afternoons going for short walks, watching TV, listening to music, and conversing, to a limited degree. She is well cared for and loved by all the staff, because, in spite of her illness and all its frustrations, Karen remains a lady, soft-spoken and polite.

"Some of you may recall that Karen was crowned the Pocono Laurel Festival Princess in June 1963. She graduated from Centenary with a business degree and got a job right away with **Coopers & Lybrand** in Philadelphia, Pa., one of the oldest accounting firms in the United States. She married and had two children, **Andrew**, now 50, and "Ginna" (Virginia), who is now 48.

"Although her first marriage ended in divorce, she then was remarried, to Ken, and became mother to his daughter, **Kimberly**. Together, they have several grandchildren. Their wedding took place on his boat on his birthday. Marriage to Karen was the best birthday present Ken ever received. In August 2019, they

celebrated their 34th anniversary. "Karen enjoyed tennis, but especially loved—and still loves—music. In her early days, she played the piano. She and Ken spent many happy weeks sailing on various boats throughout the years, most recently on their Krogan Express. They sailed the inland eastern waterways from their home in New Jersey down to Charlotte, S.C., and various ports in Florida. We love you, Karen!"

**Susan Abbe Austin** writes: "After graduating from Centenary, I went on to the Middlesex Hospital School of Nursing in Connecticut and received my R.N. I had always wanted to go into nursing, even though nobody in my family was in the medical field. After graduating from nursing school, I accepted a faculty position as an instructor in the school of nursing. While working as a faculty member, I attended Boston University part time, and received my Master of Science degree. Several years later, I attended the University of Connecticut part time, and received my Ph.D. in higher education administration. My career has always focused on nursing education, either as a teacher or an administrator in a school of nursing, and later in accreditation of nursing education programs. I no longer work full time, but I still consult with nursing programs, helping faculty to prepare for accreditation visits.

"I was to married Carl Austin for 40 years, until his passing last year. I am mother to two stepchildren and have three grandchildren, ranging in age from 11 to 34, as well as three great-grandchildren, ranging in age from 10 to 15. They all live relatively nearby and are a happy part of my life.

"I have lost touch with my former Centenary classmates over the years, but I have wonderful memories of friends, as they were all amazing people. My life is good, as I am in good health, enjoy my family, and don't have to rush. I keep busy cooking, reading, spending time with friends, occasional traveling, and doing jigsaw puzzles. I'd love to hear from anyone, particularly anyone in Connecticut!"

**Stephanie "Stevie" Bienenwald Chupashko** writes: "It's hard to believe it's been over 56 years since graduating from Centenary. I continued my education at Boston University (BU) after Centenary. The two schools couldn't have been more different. I loved Centenary because it was small, so I had the chance to get to know many people well.

"BU was located in a large city with a student enrollment in the thousands. However, because of some glitch in the system, there was no housing for me

when I arrived. I was in a panic! The parents of fellow Centenary classmate **Sally VanStone Loomis**, whose family lived outside of Boston and who had planned to go to BU herself, graciously offered me a place to stay until the school could find a room for me on campus. I was so grateful to them for letting me be part of their home and family for a couple of months. I quickly made friends with my four new roommates. Our room had a big picture window with a spectacular view of Storrow Drive, the sailboats on the Charles River, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard.

"It was a bizarre time to be living in Boston, as it was the year of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which left a pall over the city, the country, and the world. It was also the time of the Boston Strangler, which chilled us all. One of my roommates tied a string around our doorknob and a spoon, which she put in an empty glass on her desk so that if the doorknob turned, the spoon would clank on the desk, alerting us that someone was trying to get in.

"I became engaged while at BU and married soon after I graduated. My husband was attending Cornell Law School, so we moved to Ithaca, N.Y., and I started my first job, working at Cornell's School of Labor & Industrial Relations. I was so fortunate that my first real boss was a wonderful, smart woman who told me terrific stories and taught me so much. She was sweet and protective, but strong and smart. I felt so lucky to know her.

"It was the '60s, and so much was happening in our country. The summer before I arrived, three young men were murdered in Mississippi while helping black people register to vote. One of them had been a student at Cornell's School of Labor & Industrial Relations, **Michael Schwerner**.

"Cornell, like other large colleges, became a rallying point for young people to protest politically. Because of that, famous people would come to the campus to speak, including **Bobby Kennedy**. He was going to speak in front of the building where I worked, and we both just happened to come out of the door at the same time. We were face-to-face, and he reached out, shook my hand, and said hello. I was stunned. He looked directly at me with strikingly blue eyes and a very young face.

"I was pregnant with my first child when my husband accepted a job in Cleveland, Ohio. Two months after we arrived, my daughter, **Heather**, was born. She just celebrated her 53rd birthday. Luckily, fellow Centenary classmates **Barbara Keil Sheffler**, **Jane Birney Busse**, and **Karen Ostergaard Gates**

## PAWsitively Successful



Work is anything but child's play for **Jen Pace '09**, a senior director at Nickelodeon, the top entertainment brand for kids. As executive in charge of production for the series *PAW Patrol*, Pace is a key player in bringing the pack of heroic pups to screens, stages, and merchandise around the world.

"PAW Patrol is a huge franchise. It's everywhere," said Pace. "Most of my work focuses on guiding the creative process, like scripting and animation. But I've also been involved in live shows that are touring now, as well as some aspects of merchandising."

A Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Centenary, with concentrations in radio and television, provided Pace with marketable skills to launch her broadcast career. Transferring from Warren County Community College, she felt welcomed at Centenary by faculty like Assistant Professor of Communication **Matt Mendres**. The encouragement Pace received led her to work for two radio stations, as an audio engineer at WNTI, and later, as a news reporter for WRNJ.

"I feel like Centenary made a bachelor's degree more accessible to me when I transferred from community college," Pace commented. "In today's climate, some universities make it so hard to get in. At Centenary, everybody was so supportive."

Eight years ago, Nickelodeon hired Pace as an executive assistant, and she quickly began to rise through the ranks as the media landscape underwent tremendous change. In recent years, the increasing popularity of streaming services with original content has challenged professionals like Pace to find new ways to gain market share.

The expertise of Pace and her colleagues has paid off: Nielsen named *PAW Patrol* the most-watched children's show for preschoolers in 2018, and the program has generated more than \$5 billion in sales since its debut in 2013. "My first couple of years here at Nickelodeon were very different than today. Streamers hadn't yet gained traction and ventured into original programming," Pace recalled. "In the kids' space, things have changed dramatically."

Pace's recent promotion this fall meant a move from New York to Los Angeles, where she had already spent time over the summer working on set on a live action show. Reflecting on the role Centenary University has played in launching her career, she said, "Centenary has really been important to me. I would do it all again."

## Field of Memories

The reintroduction of field hockey this fall at Centenary University was the perfect occasion to honor three former players who made their mark in the sport during college. **Wendy Hope Coggins '68**, **Carol V. Allen '72/74**, and **Ellen McCracken '74** traveled to campus for the ceremony organized by **Trish Varn Mahaffey '74/78** and to watch the current Cyclones record a decisive 4-0 win over Bryn Athyn College. The first record of women playing field hockey at Centenary dates to 1911, starting on the class level and later progressing to club and intercollegiate play.



Baseball alumni returned to campus in October for the dedication of "Our Diamond of Dreams," Centenary's new baseball complex. A friendly game between current Cyclones and alumni followed the ceremony.

were living in the area. We spent a lot of happy times together and still keep in touch after all these years.

"My second child, David, was born in 1970, but by then we were living in Erie, Pa. If you're not a fan of snow (I'm not), I wouldn't recommend living there. During this time, I attended a lecture by a doctor who had written a book about the effects of artificial colors and manufactured foods on children. I began cooking everything the old-fashioned way, and still do. I make my own breads and can and freeze vegetables and fruits. If you're stuck in the house in the middle of winter, it's pretty uplifting to bake some bread or roast a chicken or make a big pot of soup.

"We moved again, this time to Millville, N.J., and found a house in a nice neighborhood with a brand new elementary school within walking distance of our house. With both

children now in school, I decided it was time to return to work. I was offered a wonderful job at Scott Paper Company. The people were interesting, fun, intelligent, and kind. Every day when I woke up, I could hardly wait to get to work.

"Sadly, our marriage ended in divorce, and the kids and I moved out on our own. However, the biggest gift from Scott Paper was my eventually meeting my future husband, Danny. Our meeting wasn't work related; rather, we were placed on the same company bowling team. Danny and I eventually married in 1980, and last July, we celebrated our 39th anniversary.

"Danny and I wanted to have children, but it wasn't to be. I prayed to God and he answered, saying, 'You don't have to have a baby to have a child. There are plenty of children in the world now who need families. Go get one!' We

learned of the Holt Agency, founded by missionaries in Korea. The Holt family was instrumental in getting laws passed in Congress to allow adoptions from Korea. The representative suggested adopting siblings. Danny and I thought about it and concluded we could do that. Eight months later, the agency told us of a brother, age 3, and a sister, 18 months old, who had been abandoned in a shopping mall. They showed us their picture, and we immediately said yes. Even so, we had to wait six more months for their arrival.

"On Oct. 4, 1985, we headed to Philadelphia Airport to meet Andy and Kati. I can tell you unequivocally it is just as exciting to meet your new child at the airport as it is to go to the hospital and give birth. Andy and Kati only spoke Korean, had never eaten American food, and didn't know what a birthday party, Halloween, or Christmas

were. They learned quickly. "Surprise, surprise—about a year after Andy and Kati arrived, I became pregnant at the age of 42. My daughter, Larisa, was born in May 1987. I left my job at Scott Paper because I didn't want to give her to someone else to care for. However, I felt so empty when Larisa eventually left for college. I felt so empty, but my son, David, said, 'Something will come along.'

"Something did: I took a yoga class. I enjoyed it so much that I went from one class a week to four or five, and Danny joined me. I then began teaching classes, and, although I loved it, I was not certified. At the age of 70, I spent eight months, traveling to Annapolis, Md., from New Jersey, for my certification with Yoga Alliance. I marvel at how wonderful a life I have had, full of amazing opportunities, terrific events, beautiful people and experiencing the things I always wanted to do."

### 1967

**Barbara Leighton Faulkner**  
2096 Kirtland Place  
Hudson, OH 44236-5306  
leightondesigns23@gmail.com

**Barbara Leighton Faulkner** writes: "We spend a lot of time in Southern California with our two granddaughters, Reese, 2 1/2, and Cora, 6 months. We still live in Ohio, but California will probably be in our future.

"**Bobbie Fiske Mildenberger** notified me that **Pam Swiss Nixon** passed away July 9 in Maryland after complications from a long illness.

"Anyone who has sent me information, please resend. Some emails were lost a while ago. I apologize!"

### 1969

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Braun Andreini-Thomas**  
1784 22nd Ave NE  
Naples, FL 34120  
239-877-2632  
ebandreini@comcast.net

**Betsy Braun Andreini-Thomas** writes: "I follow seven of my classmates on Facebook. We're all turning 70 this year. **Lee Canter Blask**, **Linda Rudnik Liberty**, **Karen van Breda Kolff**, **Gail Jastrey Borczyk**, **Elizabeth Van Riper**, **Marke Miller Vickers** and **Jody Williamson-Valentine**. I celebrated my 70th on Aug. 7.

"I have volunteered as Ukelili the Clown for the Healing Arts program at Naples Community Hospital since 2014. Lee is in Houston, Texas, managing a luxury condo building

and happy to have survived Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Linda has spent a lot of time at Cape Cod. Gail likes to make greeting cards. Elizabeth is in Sarasota, Fla., selling real estate.

"'Fiddle-dee-dee,' as Scarlet O'Hara said. We're all mostly grandmothers trying to stay current, healthy, vibrant, and do Centenary proud."

### 1975

**Carolyn Holt Miksch**  
21085 Atlantic Coast Court  
Lewes, DE 19958-6824  
(908) 223-7457  
mikschc@hotmail.com

**Carolyn Holt Miksch** writes: "More people at this point in our lives should write in, even if it is only a sentence or two. We are getting to that point in our lives that we only dreamed about. I am at that magical age of 65, but I am so happy being retired, living in Delaware by the shore with the man I married of my dreams. You would think retirement would be slow paced; however, I have been searching for that for four years and can't find it yet.

"We went on a cruise this summer to celebrate my dad's 90th birthday. I fell on board, smashed my face, and broke three ribs. Needless to say, it was a little uncomfortable. But it was nice to celebrate such a special time in Bermuda and travel through New England. Best to all."

### 1989

Classmates **Kim Feinberg Di Buono**, **Carlene Meixner Schiavo**, **Janna Rotando Jackson**, and **Barbara Ciccone Sico**, along with **Ellie McShane '87**, traveled from parts near and far to visit Centenary University on Oct. 5. The five Cyclones shared happy memories and enjoyed a tour of the campus, including Our Diamond of Dreams, the University's new baseball complex.



### 1999

**Laura Orbine**  
132 Tumble Idell Road  
Frenchtown, NJ 08825-4002  
lorbine@hotmail.com

**Laura Orbine** writes: "As we mark the 20th anniversary of our graduation, I hope the Class of 1999 is happy and successful. I am employed as controller & human resources manager for an environmental consulting firm. In my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors and recently won a photography contest sponsored by the Delaware River Basin Commission. Best to all & happy 20th!"



### 2006

The Hillsborough Board of Education has named **Anthony Aliperti** as the new principal of Triangle Elementary School. The recipient of a master's degree in special education from Centenary, Aliperti previously served as vice principal of an elementary school in the East Windsor School District since 2015.



Anthony Aliperti

### 2008

**Matthew Thompson, Ed.D.**, is the new principal of Parsippany Hills High School. Dr. Thompson holds his M.A. in educational leadership from Centenary.

### 2010

**Kim Kalosy, D.V.M.**, is well on her way toward her goal of becoming a board-certified veterinary dermatologist. Dr. Kalosy earned her D.V.M. from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine last year and completed

a small animal internship at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital. Now, she's participating in a yearlong specialty small animal dermatology internship in Pittsburgh, Pa.

### 2011

**Sarah Ciamillo, D.V.M.**, graduated from Midwestern College of Veterinary Medicine last spring. Dr. Ciamillo is completing an equine internship at the The Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center.

### 2016

**Jim Hintenach** is the new principal at Edith Ort Thomas Elementary School in Frenchtown, N.J. He holds dual master's degrees in educational leadership and special education from Centenary.



Jim Hintenach

### 2018

As an undergraduate, **Sonya Thiel** used her Centenary University connections to earn a spot as an assistant director for an off-Broadway production. Today, she works in company management with Goodspeed Musicals.

### 2019

**Anthony Doran** sponsored a Memorial Ruck in memory of his brother, Army veteran and Phillipsburg High School graduate Joseph Doran, on Sept. 28. Proceeds from the event, which included a barbecue, tricky tray, and music, will be used to place a memorial bench and plaque in Joseph's memory at Veterans Rally Point. Remaining proceeds will be donated to Battle Borne Veterans Services Inc., which provides direct services to active duty military families and service disabled veterans.

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## Dominick V. Romano, Champion for Centenary University



**Dominick V. Romano '01 HA** was a firm believer in the power of education. The former member of the Centenary University Board of Trustees passed away on Nov. 17, leaving a legacy that has made a lasting impact on the future of the University and its students.

A supporter of Centenary dating to 1961, Mr. Romano served as co-chair of the University's capital campaign from 1996 to 2001, helping to raise \$15.3 million. In 2000, the University recognized his commitment to community service with the establishment of the Dominick V. Romano Volunteer Award. A year later, Centenary presented Mr. Romano with an honorary doctor of humane letters for his longtime dedication to the University, and in 2008 he was

the recipient of the University's Van Winkle Achievement Award. CEO and chairman of the board of Ronetco Supermarkets, Inc., Mr. Romano was the second generation in his family to run the business started by his parents 92 years ago. Ronetco is a member of the Wakefern Food Corp., a retailer-owned cooperative and the wholesale merchandising and distribution arm for more than 275 ShopRite Supermarkets and 76 alternate format supermarkets in New Jersey and five other states. A member of the Wakefern board from 1970 through 2007, Mr. Romano served terms as both vice chairman and treasurer of the board. He was also past chairman of ShopRite Supermarkets and Readington Farms Dairy.

Mr. Romano leaves his wife of 65 years, Kathryn P. Romano; his children, Dominick J. and his wife, Cathy; David P. and his wife, Alice; and Nina and her husband, Tony Rizzo; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## David Thaddeus Sawicki, Former Cyclone Baseball Coach

David Thaddeus Sawicki, a former head coach of the Centenary University baseball team, passed away on Sept. 1 following a long illness. Sawicki guided the Cyclones from 2002 to 2008, compiling a 142-100-1 record. He led Centenary to two appearances in the NCAA Regionals after winning the Skyline Conference in 2005 and 2006. Sawicki saw **Nigel Archibald '05** become the program's first All-American in 2004.

A resident of Independence Township, Sawicki attended Seton Hall University, where he was a nationally-ranked NCAA Division I pitcher. He served on the Independence Township Recreation Commission and coached his two daughters' sports teams. He leaves his wife, Jennifer; his daughters, Katie and Madelyn; his mother, Evelyn; and two sisters, Karen and Diane.

## In Memoriam

<b>Bernice Ritter Alpaugh '52</b> .....7/3/19	<b>Elsie Gillespie Hart '61</b> .....6/7/19	<b>Joanne Nichol '97</b> .....7/29/19
<b>Susan Laut Borkowicz '63</b> .....5/19	<b>Joanne Keating Hartmann '78</b> .....9/15/19	<b>Pamela Swiss Nixon '67</b> .....7/9/19
<b>Mary Ellen Welburn Collins '47</b> .....5/12/19	<b>Nancy Gingras Karcher '60</b> .....8/16/19	<b>Bernice Gaal Paton '52</b> .....6/27/19
<b>Nancy Fell Criswell '40</b> .....5/23/19	<b>Mary Elizabeth Kilkenny '52</b> .....5/11/19	<b>Judith Van Rees Rountry '58</b> .....9/6/19
<b>Mary Knowlton Crookshank '51</b> .....5/12/19	<b>Betty Summers Kleiber '53</b> .....4/27/19	<b>Margaret Salisbury '71</b> .....5/23/19
<b>Carolyn Wheeler Deakins '45</b> .....8/9/19	<b>Barbara Ehresman Krauss '55</b> .....10/10/19	<b>Susan Sheldon '77</b> .....8/13/19
<b>Marguerite Jensen Fardelmann '46</b> ...6/8/19	<b>Carolyn Preble Krieg '55</b> .....10/24/19	<b>Jaelyn Geerts Snel '49</b> .....2/23/19
<b>Caroline Farrar '57</b> .....5/26/19	<b>Susan Friend Lane '51</b> .....3/28/19	<b>Diane Turner '63</b> .....5/28/19
<b>Susan Rockefeller Flanagan '60</b> .....8/19/19	<b>Thomas Leaman '12</b> .....7/15/19	<b>Cynthia Gibson Wieboldt '53</b> .....5/26/19
<b>Elizabeth Rheuby Gillespie '48</b> .....8/22/19	<b>Debra Sommer McCormick '72</b> .....7/17/19	<b>Myrle Perkins Yates '58</b> .....8/21/19
<b>Elizabeth Mettler Growney '57</b> .....8/14/19	<b>Diane Stephens Montgomery '60</b> ...10/19/19	
<b>Carol Whitney Harrington '50</b> .....9/18/19	<b>Sandra Moody '59</b> .....9/20/19	

## ANIMAL INSTINCT



A new workweek means a brand new set of challenges for **McKenna Sheriff, D.V.M. '14**, a small animal rotating intern veterinarian at VCA Northwest Veterinary Specialists. This year, Dr. Sheriff is furthering her education at the Clackamas, Ore., veterinary hospital after graduating from Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University in June.

"My job is pretty cool," she said. "We alternate through different specialties, so every week is something new. We have primary case responsibilities when on emergency, which is stressful and kind of scary, but you learn a ton. We also rotate through internal medicine, surgery, neurology, ophthalmology, and several other services, where we get to learn from specialists, which is incredibly valuable."

Dr. Sheriff is part of a large group of Centenary alumni who have succeeded at competitive veterinary schools across the country. When her current internship ends, she hopes to score a residency in veterinary radiology—an interest first cultivated at Centenary.

"To me, radiology has almost always been the coolest aspect of veterinary medicine," explained Dr. Sheriff, a California native. "I got my first real spark of inspiration looking at radiographs in an Equine Musculoskeletal I class at Centenary. I just think it is incredibly fascinating that we have all these modalities to peer inside an animal's body and mystery solve in a noninvasive way."

Dr. Sheriff initially enrolled at Centenary for its nationally-recognized IHSA team and hunter jumper team, choosing to major in equine studies. Later, she added a concentration in equine science. For good measure, she added minors in business marketing and biology, and was co-captain of the hunter jumper team.

While her classes were excellent, Dr. Sheriff also points to learning opportunities outside the classroom as a key factor



that helped to shape her career goals. As an undergraduate at Centenary, she observed several equine necropsies and traveled to the University of Pennsylvania to a lecture by Dean Richardson, D.V.M., the famous orthopedic surgeon who treated Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro.

"There were tons of opportunities for education outside the classroom," she recalled. "My Centenary education definitely helped me in veterinary school. There were many instances where what we learned about equines was almost a review of my college studies instead of a brand new concept to me. To a lot of veterinary students, horses are a weird, fragile creature, so it was nice to feel a bit more confident and familiar while studying equine medicine."

Today, Dr. Sheriff looks back on her time at Centenary fondly: "I miss it every day. I was able to get a traditional education and get into veterinary school while also being able to ride and show horses. I had some wonderful teachers and coaches and made lifelong friends. I still can't believe how lucky I was to have those amazing four years."

## SAVE THE DATE

# 2020 Scholarship Gala

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For information contact Faith Linsky:  
Faith.Linsky@centenaryuniversity.edu or  
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