



The Magazine of Centenary University

Spring 2021

# CENTENARIAN



**Back on Campus:  
Commencement  
Returns In Person**

**INSIDE** THE CAREER CONNECTION

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# Touchdown!

Centenary University is celebrating the renewal of its educational partnership with the New York Jets, providing students with extraordinary opportunities to network with players and professionals from this world-class organization.

## A Year Like No Other



As this extraordinary academic year draws to a close, I'm filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Our Centenary University community responded admirably to the formidable challenges the pandemic presented to educational institutions around the country. At the heart of our resolve was the goal to provide a full year of in-person

instruction. It took the complete cooperation of everyone—students, faculty, staff, and even parents—to stay the course with masking and social distancing. Today, I'm proud to say that we achieved our goal.

**"All of this occurred during a worldwide pandemic, a true testament to the resilience of Centenary University."**

Yet, we accomplished much more. As a University community, we realized the power of Centenary Choice, enabling students to customize their education, extracurricular activities, and even commencement with in-person and virtual options. Our Alumni Association Executive Board presented an interesting series of virtual events to strengthen the connection between Centenarians and your *alma mater*. Donors also stepped up with increased support, enabling the University to institute a host of new academic programs.

All of this occurred during a worldwide pandemic, a true testament to the resilience of Centenary University. As I write this message, things seem more hopeful than they have in a long time, for Centenary and for our nation. The COVID-19 vaccine is playing a big role in bringing down case numbers—in my photo, I'm proudly showing off my vaccine card. We're strongly encouraging everyone in our campus community to get their vaccine so we can welcome you back to Centenary in August, healthy and ready for a new academic year.

Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President



## Powered Through Partnerships

A new partnership has paved the way for Centenary University to institute majors in computer science and public health, as well as courses in certified financial planning, through the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium (LCMC). Comprised of over 70 private colleges and universities, the LCMC offers high-quality educational programs informed by some of the greatest minds in education and industry.

Centenary's new computer science major, which launches next fall, is supported through Google. Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy D'Olivo, Ph.D., said, "This is an extraordinary opportunity for our faculty to collaborate with input from the world's leading technology firm. The result is an academic program that is highly relevant in today's job market. This Google-inspired major signals to potential employers that our alumni are graduating with practical skills that can make an immediate impact on the job."

Next fall, the University will also debut its Bachelor of Science in Public Health. Leading experts in the field from the World Health Organization and Yale University helped to develop the curriculum.

The certified financial planning courses began this spring in response to growing demand for trained professionals in the field. Registered under the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) Board of Standards—considered the gold standard in the financial planning field—the fully online courses are taught by credentialed faculty and prepare students to take the certified financial planning exam.

Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., noted that collaborations with leading industry partners like the LCMC represent the wave of the future for higher education: "Increasingly, universities aren't limited to the intellectual capital on their own campuses. Technology allows us to tap the resources of top minds from around the world. Smaller private universities, like Centenary, can take this knowledge and move quickly to adapt our courses, producing graduates with marketable skills that are in great demand by employers."



## Inclusion in Fashion

"The Cool Pose: Zoot Suits, Hip Hop, and High Fashion" was the focus of this spring's Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecture series. The virtual event was presented by fashion industry educator, researcher, and diversity and inclusion advocate Gary Lampley, whose research focuses on the examination of dress, adornment, and the appearance of African Americans during the 20th and 21st centuries and analyzes their fashion influences.

Through his participation in the nonprofit Black Retail Action Group Inc. (BRAG), Lampley has fostered the acceptance and participation of people of color at all levels of retail and related industries for more than two decades. His lecture was particularly relevant at Centenary University, which offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Fashion and recently introduced a new Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Advisory Board to foster dialogue and action.

## National Impact: Students Aid CDC Study

Student researchers from Centenary University this spring participated in a nationwide study launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to gauge facial mask compliance on college campuses across the country. Called MASCUP!, the eight-week study provided critical data to inform future CDC guidance to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Twelve Centenary students served as anonymous observers on the University's Hackettstown campus to collect mask usage data, which was reported to the CDC once a week. The students tracked the proportion of people who wore masks, the proportion who wore masks properly, and the different types of masks worn.

Centenary Head Women's Basketball Coach Rose Haller coordinated the University's participation with Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Kerry Mullins. Haller noted that the CDC study exemplifies Centenary's commitment to providing experiential learning: "This is a great opportunity for Centenary students to build their resumes working with a national organization on a national study in partnership with other students, some from very large research universities. It's the backbone of who we are educationally,



providing hands-on learning and professional experiences throughout the college career."

The study provided an important way for students to make an impact on an issue that has reshaped the nation and the world, Mullins added: "The information that the CDC derived from this study will help protect against the further spread of COVID-19 and universities from having to make tough decisions about closure. So, it really is very much about helping their peers, at Centenary and across the country, to stay safe and keep universities open for in-person learning."

## Vaccine Hero



Delaney Stewart '23 is one of New Jersey's heroes in the fight against COVID-19. The psychology major booked more than 75 vaccine appointments for elderly strangers, as well as people with preexisting conditions, who couldn't navigate the state's decentralized online system. After finding appointments for her parents, Stewart posted an offer to help

others on the New Jersey Vaccine Info Facebook page. Her first clients: an elderly couple in their 80s with little computer experience. "When I told my dad that I made the appointments, he started to tear up," Stewart recalled. "He knows I'm someone

who likes to help people."

Staying up until 2 am in her dorm room, Stewart gradually began booking more appointments: Senior citizens. A cancer survivor. A man with a liver illness. The parents of friends. And even members of the Centenary University community. "It was frustrating to me that these people—including people in their 80s and 90s—couldn't get appointments," said Stewart, who is still recovering from her own mild case of COVID-19 in February. "They didn't grow up with computers and technology."

Now, Stewart is excited that she has received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and is looking forward to early June, when she can safely gather again with family and friends. Reflecting on the help she has provided to others, Stewart added, "At first, I didn't realize the impact I was making on strangers' lives. Their reactions made me happy, so I kept going. I'm just so grateful I could help."



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Centenary University held its 146th commencement in a series of three outdoor ceremonies, with two undergraduate events on May 8 and a hooding ceremony/commencement for master's and doctoral candidates on May 5. All festivities were held in compliance with New Jersey COVID-19 guidelines for outdoor gatherings.

Valedictorian was Kevin Chrobak '21, a biology major who graduated with a perfect 4.0 average. Co-valedictorian was transfer student Lauren Makarevich '21, who also achieved a 4.0 average. Takisha Knight '21, who earned a master's in business administration, addressed the master's and doctoral graduates.

Aakash Shah, M.D., '21 HA, a national voice in healthcare policy and a frontline COVID-19 physician at Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH), delivered the commencement address at the two undergraduate ceremonies. The University awarded Dr. Shah an honorary Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*. (See sidebar).

Commencement for the Class of 2021 was held in accordance with the University's Centenary Choice initiative, enabling students to customize their own classroom, extracurricular, and graduation experiences with a combination of in-person and online options. Centenary President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., said, "Centenary Choice has played an important role for our students during the pandemic. While some outdoor restrictions have lifted, we understand that not every graduate was comfortable celebrating in a larger group. Centenary Choice allowed the Class of 2021 to come together—in person and virtually—with their classmates, while respecting the comfort level of each graduate."

The University's Office of Alumni Relations and the Alumni Association Executive Board also feted the Class of 2020 at an on-campus reception on May 7. Their degrees were conferred in a virtual ceremony last year due to the pandemic.

## Heartfelt Activist



Aakash Shah, M.D.

Prominent frontline COVID-19 doctor Aakash Shah, M.D., delivered the address at Centenary University's two undergraduate commencement ceremonies. The University recognized Dr. Shah's extraordinary contributions to public health with a Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Dr. Shah encouraged the Class of 2021 to "bring your head, heart, and hands together to make a difference in the lives of others." It's a sentiment that has guided his own career. An addiction and emergency room doctor at Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH), Dr. Shah helped diagnose the earliest confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey. He was also tapped last year to contribute his knowledge on healthcare accessibility, as well as the pandemic, to support a member of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force, which coalesced platforms from the two presidential candidates into a cohesive approach that is now guiding the healthcare policy of the Biden administration.

**"Every one of us can find ways, big or small, to make an impact."**

A member of the transition team for New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, Dr. Shah was also honored at the White House during the Obama administration for Be Jersey Strong, a grassroots effort he founded to increase accessibility to healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Serving as the nonprofit's executive director, Dr. Shah helped to recruit and train a diverse group of over 500 undergraduate students to introduce the ACA within their home communities. The effort reached tens of thousands of people and led to significant ACA enrollment increases in New Jersey. "Be Jersey Strong was movement work," Dr. Shah said. "Thanks to those students, we moved and moved fast, reaching thousands across the state who would have otherwise been overlooked and almost certainly been without access to care to this day."

Reflecting on the pandemic and other challenges facing the nation, Dr. Shah said that young people, like the members of Centenary University's Class of 2021, have the power to effect positive change: "Today's students—and indeed, every one of us—can find ways, big or small, to make an impact, whatever your calling happens to be."





# STEWARD OF THE RIVER

For Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Julie LaBar, Ph.D., and her students, the Musconetcong River provides a living laboratory to study the effects of climate change and pollution in northwestern New Jersey. This tributary—which runs for more than 45 miles from Lake Hopatcong to the Delaware River—holds important clues on environmental impact, while providing hands-on research experiences for a new generation of environmental scientists studying at Centenary University.

Dr. LaBar’s expertise targets the geographic area known as the Highlands, an expanse stretching about 60 miles in the northwestern corner of the state, including Hackettstown. She has investigated the presence and remediation of contaminants in the Musconetcong, as well as the impact of trace elements caused by climate change. During the current academic year, Samantha Johnson ’21 has partnered with Dr. LaBar on an independent research project funded through the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) to study the presence of microplastics in the sediment of the Musconetcong.

“As far as we can determine, this is the first time anyone has looked for these contaminants in this area of the river,” explained Dr. LaBar, adding that Johnson was recognized for her work as first runner up at the ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. “In the future, we hope to expand microplastics work into other watersheds in the Highlands region and begin looking at trace metals in urban and suburban streams as a function of road salt applications.”

In addition, a local high school student is working with Dr. LaBar on examining macroinvertebrates—small aquatic

animals and the aquatic larval stages of insects—in the river, including searching for invasive species like the New Zealand mud snail. “Our project entails sampling in the fall and comparing the data to see if this invasive species is more prevalent at certain times of the year,” said Dr. LaBar. The teen participates through the Hunterdon County Vocational School District’s Environmental Sustainability and Engineering Academy, which partners with Centenary to offer environmental science courses for college credit.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Dr. LaBar is director of the Centenary University Center for Sustainability, which fosters academic and non-academic partnerships in sustainable activities. She also serves on the board of directors of the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA), an independent nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of the Musconetcong River and its watershed. Among the organization’s activities is monitoring the water quality of the stream, which intersects directly with Dr. LaBar’s research. The MWA is a member of the Highlands Coalition, a network of organizations and individuals working to protect, enhance, and restore the Highlands and ensure drinking water quality.

Dr. LaBar participated in the planning and presentation of the coalition’s second annual Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference in November 2020, which featured topics such as land use planning, conservation, ecotourism, economic development, and the impact of climate change on northern New Jersey. Originally scheduled for March 2020 at Centenary’s David and Carol Lackland Center, the conference was postponed due to COVID-19 and, ultimately, presented virtually.

## In A Class by Herself



Jesslyn Bryk-Lucy, D.V.M., Centenary University’s resident veterinarian and assistant professor of equine studies, has been named Veterinarian of the Year for Region II by

the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH Intl®). Dr. Bryk-Lucy cares for all of the horses at the University, including those that participate in the Therapeutic Riding At Centenary (TRAC) program.

“This is an amazing outlet for people of all ages to use horses to find strength and independence while working through physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges,” Dr. Bryk-Lucy said of TRAC. “I love how the therapeutic riding program reaches people with physical challenges, but can also be useful for veterans, troubled youth, and leadership programs.”

Dr. Bryk-Lucy earned her undergraduate and veterinary degrees from Cornell University. She says, “I get great satisfaction from seeing the horses I treat out doing their job. Horses like to have a purpose, too, and it’s my job to keep them comfortable so they can continue to perform.”

## It Takes a Planet



Science Department Chair Krassi Lazarova, Ph.D., uses a common-sense message when it comes to climate change: Trust the science. “We know the science. We know what is causing the problem,”

she explained. “We know what we need to do to reduce specific greenhouse gases. If we all pull the cart in the same direction, we will be successful.”

An expert in climate science, Dr. Lazarova says worldwide cooperation—between nations, corporations, scientists, and ordinary citizens—is key to preserving our planet. At Centenary University, undergraduate research projects are contributing data on Warren County to efforts tracking climate change around the world.

“In every model, your predictions are as good as the data you put in,” Dr. Lazarova explained. “However, data is often skewed toward large metropolitan areas, with very little input from areas such as northwestern New Jersey, where Centenary is located. The ongoing faculty and student research at Centenary helps fill that data gap.”

## Meet the Crime Fighters



A host of criminal justice professionals visited Centenary University last semester as part of the Careers in Criminal Justice course taught by Assistant Professor Douglas Compton, Ed.D. The course teaches students about opportunities in the field, from law enforcement to the court system, corrections, and more.

Col. Patrick J. Callahan, superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, as well other seasoned professionals including Centenary alumni, shared their insights with students. Dr. Compton said, “My goal is to encourage students to explore as much as possible now, so we can get them on the right track later with internships and career placement.”

## Olympic Moment

Jeanne Murphy’s experiences as a member of the US Olympic and Paralympic committees are enriching the Centenary University community. Murphy is a former member of the US modern pentathlon team and has attended Olympic Games in Sydney, Salt Lake City, and Athens, and has also served as the USA chief of mission for the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

At Centenary, the wife of President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., has fostered dialogue on campus following the Centenary Stage Company’s production of *Turning*, a play focusing on the first US women’s gymnastics team, which included Hackettstown gymnast Ada Lunardon. Murphy sees the Olympics as a way to foster diversity, inclusion, and belonging: “To me, sport, especially the Olympics, is about the beauty of human performance and nations coming together to celebrate peace through sport.”







Four microbreweries are partnering with Centenary's Enactus team to advance sustainability by recycling malt bags into stylish bags to sell onsite at the businesses. The project is funded through a \$25,000 grant from the Ford Community Challenge.

the bakery's current clientele, which skews older, as well as competition in the local breakfast market. Next, they developed an e-commerce package with a strong social media presence that emphasizes third party delivery services like Uber Eats and DoorDash. The goal: Build on the bakery's existing client base, while adding younger customers who value great food, delivered fast.

"Harper's Bakery wants to reopen in person, but only when it's financially feasible," Eugene explained. "Social media and e-commerce are very important for this client. So far, we've created a step-by-step guide on how to post on social media to increase your reach and developed a proposal for third-party delivery. We're teaching them about all of these new tools, but at the same time, we're learning with them."

The importance of the career connection is embedded in Centenary's core curriculum through a new course called Nature of Work, according to Aaron Ratzan, assistant director of Career Development. In addition, Centenary students are presented with experiential learning opportunities like independent research and internships soon after they enroll. In fact, participating on the ARTstitution consulting team has led to a paid social media internship there for Christine Manser '22. "The goal at Centenary isn't just to teach students about their particular major," Ratzan explained. "We also teach the practical skills you need to be successful in a career."

While placing students in internships has been a challenge due to the pandemic, Centenary has found creative ways to continue providing hands-on training through events like the student-run Sports and Entertainment Management Conference, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in April (see sidebar on page 9). In addition, students like Enactus member Sara Schaarschmidt '20/21 have found unique ways to gain career experience. A Centenary MBA candidate, Schaarschmidt landed a virtual internship last year with the Enactus Belgium 2020 Expo, a national showcase of social entrepreneurial initiatives sponsored by student Enactus teams.

Thanks to the University's educational approach blending theory and practice, Centenary students have gained acclaim, nationally and internationally. Locally, employers report that students and alumni are exceptionally ready for the job market. Ratzan noted, "More than 90 percent of employers surveyed say that Centenary students are well prepared or very well prepared for the workforce. Our students are hard workers who are dedicated, adaptable, and know their stuff before they arrive on the job."

Those career skills shine in Centenary classrooms, too. This spring, students taught by Barbara Jayne Lewthwaite, Ed.D., '96 HA, professor of business and president *emerita*, performed in the top 10 percent of teams worldwide in a simulation requiring them to execute a complete business strategy using

evidence-based decision making. The complex exercise involved synthesizing data from various departments of the simulated company, savvy resource-leveraging, and mastery of the integration and application of concepts from different facets of business. Dr. Lewthwaite said, "I would put our Centenary students up against any undergraduate business student, anywhere."

Beyond building career skills, Centenary's partnerships with local businesses are forging stronger relationships with the Hackettstown-area community. Schaarschmidt is the project manager for a team working with four local microbreweries—Jersey Girl Brewing, Man Skirt Brewing, Angry Erik Brewing, and Czig Meister Brewing Company—to recycle malt bags into stylish shopping bags, bookbags, growler totes, and messenger bags to sell at the microbreweries. The project is funded through a \$25,000 grant from the Ford Community Challenge.

"This initiative makes their businesses look good, and it also saves them money," Schaarschmidt said. "The owner of Jersey Girl, for instance, takes a lot of pride in being a sustainable business. They love to partner with Centenary. All sides win—small business owners receive help and make sure they're keeping up with the times, and Centenary students get to experience what it's like to be an entrepreneur. It's an amazing feeling to help these businesses."

Glinko agreed: "At this point, I really don't do this for a grade anymore. It is so rewarding to see the different businesses and people we're helping, and what we're putting out into the world. You don't realize how much you know and how much you're learning in college until you actually use it out in the real world."



Ahmet Kukrek, Ph.D.



Robert M. Weinstein, Ph.D.

## Connections Count

A new lecture series at Centenary University aims to connect faculty and students with business leaders to inform teaching and learning. Called Frontiers of Knowledge, the series is organized by Assistant Professor of Chemistry Ahmet Kukrek, Ph.D.

The spring semester series kicked off with "From Bench to Boardroom...Lessons Learned Along the Way." Presented by Robert M. Weinstein, Ph.D., president and CEO of Robertet USA, the lecture focused on Dr. Weinstein's career and his dedication to fostering lifelong learning among his firm's employees.

A chemist, Dr. Weinstein got his start in the flavor and fragrance industry in Switzerland. Thirty-four years later, he heads one of the world's largest firms in the industry. Throughout his career, his love of learning has gone far beyond chemistry.

Under Dr. Weinstein's leadership, Robertet USA has nurtured the professional advancement of employees through an Emerging Leaders Program with respected speakers in finance, human resources, strategy, and other business disciplines. The company has also introduced a diversity and inclusion initiative. "I tell people that you should never stop learning," said Dr. Weinstein, who has also demonstrated his and Robertet USA's support to the University with gifts to the Field of Dreams campaign and to student scholarships as a Gold Dome Advocate event sponsor. "I don't believe in luck. It's important to accept every opportunity to learn from mentors."



# HISTORIC MOMENT

Unconventional presidential inaugurations are nothing new to Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., who was officially inaugurated on Jan. 28 as the 14th president of Centenary University in a ceremony held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. The event is believed to be the first virtual inauguration of a university president in the United States—and perhaps, in the world.

In 1984-85, Dr. Murphy, who was then serving with the US Army, was on the inaugural committee for President Ronald Reagan's second inauguration. Prior to that event, weather reports predicted that an Arctic blast could bring wind chills of 20 degrees below zero to Washington, DC—potentially dangerous conditions for a ceremony traditionally held outside on the steps of the Capitol. Two days before the event, Dr. Murphy's team contacted the Army's Northern Warfare Center in Alaska, which determined that the severe weather could cause casualties. "With one day's notice, we moved the inauguration indoors to the Capitol Rotunda," recalled Dr. Murphy, a retired lieutenant colonel.

In planning his own inauguration, which he had originally hoped would be in person, Dr. Murphy reflected on President Reagan accepting the change in order to save lives. Then, he thought about the Centenary University Class of 2020 and their parents, who had a virtual commencement to help save lives in the midst of the pandemic. He asked himself, "How could I do anything less for my own inauguration?"

In his inaugural address, Dr. Murphy discussed the University's new strategic plan to establish Centenary as the intellectual, economic, and cultural heart of the Skylands region, as well as several new academic programs, partnerships with other institutions of higher learning, and a Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Advisory Board at Centenary: "In short, my vision for the University is the encouragement of a more collaborative, supportive, forward-thinking, and strategic community that embraces lifelong learning, greater access to higher education, and pathways to career opportunity."



Centenary University Faculty



Wolfgang Gstatenbauer '84/13 HA Chair Emeritus, Board of Trustees



Emma Kerr '21 Student Government President



New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy



Alondra Murphy Howard Daughter



Angela Moore '90 PAC Chair

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy headlined a host of dignitaries providing video addresses for the inauguration. Other speakers included Dr. Murphy's mentor, Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D., chancellor of Troy University, as well as many of the state's university presidents, representatives of Centenary's Board of Trustees, faculty, students, alumni, and Dr. Murphy's family, including his wife, Jeanne, and daughter, Alondra Murphy Howard.

Dr. Murphy ended his inaugural remarks echoing President George Washington on his inauguration day, who eschewed a military escort to walk to the ceremony in New York City. Thanking those who have supported him, Dr. Murphy said, "In closing, I say to you, with the goodwill of the Centenary community and the loving support of so many of you—friends, family, colleagues, and mentors—I certainly need no finer escort as we start the journey together."

## Support the Vision

Since arriving on campus in January 2020, President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., has outlined a bold vision to establish Centenary University as the intellectual, economic, and cultural heart of the Skylands Region. The President's Initiative Fund supports three objectives identified by Dr. Murphy as critical to this effort:

- **New instructional technology**, impacting how students learn
- **Classroom upgrades**, creating state-of-the-art learning environments
- **Student scholarships**, providing greater educational access

Dr. Murphy and his wife, Jeanne, marked the occasion of his Centenary inauguration with a gift of \$25,000 to the President's Initiative Fund. "Dr. and Mrs. Murphy have demonstrated their commitment to Centenary's future through this generous gift," said Karen Di Maria, vice president for university advancement. "Now, we're inviting alumni and friends of the University to support Dr. Murphy's vision with a gift to The President's Initiative Fund."



**Make your gift to The President's Initiative Fund.**



with  
**Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97**  
Board of Trustees Chair

#### What brought you to Centenary?

I was a working mom when I enrolled. After finishing my associate degree, I focused on my next goal: Earning a bachelor's degree. Centenary provided a route to do that. There have been many busy working women, like me, who have found that Centenary offers the right environment. This University does an amazing job of providing individualized attention and mentoring, especially to nontraditional and first generation students. Neither of my parents went through the college process, so they couldn't really guide me. I think, in a lot of ways, I was able to succeed in finishing my education at Centenary because the University could give me the kind of mentorship and support I needed.

#### You're an advocate for higher education.

A major reason we have a strong democracy in this country is because we have a great educational infrastructure. Centenary plays a vital role in creating an educated citizenry. Today, more and more students need a small university environment that provides intense mentorship and opportunity. That's what Centenary does best. This University is serving a profound and acute need for underserved students, many of whom face financial challenges. Someday, Centenary students are going to

be leaders in the world. Now, more than ever, the world needs enlightened leaders.

#### What led you to fundraising?

A year or two before I was introduced to the development field, I worked in the Centenary admissions office while taking classes at night. When I moved into development, I started working on grants and other projects, including having the Seay Building placed on the National Register of Historic Places so the University could qualify for renovation funding. Centenary is a very entrepreneurial place; it allowed me to shine and discover what I was good at. I really learned every aspect of development here and have built on those lessons throughout my career.

#### Best part of your job?

As the director of gift planning for Princeton University, I love helping donors realize their philanthropic goals. Most people are charitable in their hearts. They want to be generous, but sometimes they can't figure out a way to do it. Maybe they're uncertain about how much they should set aside for their own needs in the future, or perhaps they have loved ones who depend on them. I help people to find a gift plan that allows them to reach both personal and philanthropic goals. It's about making sure that everyone is well taken

care of, even after the donor has passed on. I get energized solving these problems for donors. It's my passion.

#### Please explain planned giving.

Planned gifts, which can be a bequest or gift that pays an income for life back to the donor or other beneficiaries, offer flexibility and can make a tremendous impact—often much greater than the donor thought possible. One common thread I see is that donors with modest incomes can include their favorite charity in their testamentary plans, allowing them the security of controlling their assets during life, while also making a significant difference for the causes they care about. A properly structured planned gift is a way for people to make a bigger philanthropic impact, while leaving a legacy that creates sustainable, long-term good in the world.

#### Tell us more about giving options.

There are so many different ways to support Centenary through a planned gift—and some of them cost the donor very little or nothing today. The easiest way is to designate the University as a beneficiary on your 401k, IRA, life insurance policy, or brokerage account. When you reach the withdrawal age, you can even designate your annual required minimum distribution directly to Centenary, which bypasses income and capital gains taxes.

Gifts of appreciated stock are also very effective gifts. Many of us don't think of ourselves as wealthy, but many of us do have some stock. Under current tax rules, gifts of appreciated stock to a qualified charity—like Centenary—are not subject to capital gains tax and the full market value of the stock is deductible for federal income tax purposes (subject to IRS limitations). Because Centenary is a qualified charity, it can sell the stock without paying capital gains tax.

#### So, my gift can make a bigger impact?

Yes, it can. For example, I paid \$100 for a share of stock a decade ago. Now, it's worth \$1,000. I donate the stock to the University, which will not have to pay taxes, putting the full value toward its educational mission. This gift, which cost me \$100, provides \$1,000 of educational support, provides me with a tax deduction of \$1,000 (if I itemize), and does not trigger capital gains taxes on the appreciation, while assisting the institution that I hold dear. Retirement funds are also key because they tend to be an individual's largest asset, but are very expensive to leave to your children because they are taxed at a high rate. The reality is that your children may only receive half of the money due to taxes. It's often much better for you to designate those assets to a nonprofit like Centenary and leave other assets to your family.

#### How can people learn more?

The development staff at Centenary can work with your tax adviser to structure your gift to meet your goals. There are several advantages to this. First, and most importantly, working directly with Centenary ensures that we fully understand your wishes and that your intent complies with the University's policies. We'll work closely with you to structure your gift so that it benefits you, your loved ones, and future Centenary students. We'd also like to know about your gift because we want to recognize your generosity to Centenary and thank you in your lifetime. Interested donors can reach out to Karen DiMaria, vice president for university advancement, to learn more: karen.dimaria@centenaryuniversity.edu

#### What are your priorities as board chair?

My first priority is to make sure that we're fulfilling and staying true to Centenary's mission. In addition, my hope is to get Centenary the financial support that it deserves, especially for our signature academic programs. Centenary plays a critical role in providing educational opportunity in the arts, sciences, business, humanities, education, and equine studies, but does so primarily without an endowment. Endowment (and term gifts) provide resilience during economic downturns and will support the development of new programs, such as the focus on health sciences. One generous donor with a well-planned gift can make a dramatic difference. I've been blessed with a successful career in fundraising, which started here at Centenary. Now, I'd like to pay it forward to assist today's students.

*Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97 is the director of gift planning for Princeton University. She earned an associate degree from Northampton Community College, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Centenary University, and is pursuing a master's in finance from the American College for Financial Services.*

### Fast Facts

#### 1. BOARD MAINSTAY

Makela-Goodman has served on the Centenary University Board of Trustees for 12 years.

#### 2. FAMILY AFFAIR

Her enrollment at Centenary sparked a family tradition. Two nephews, including Justin Goodman '19, have attended the University.

#### 3. MUSICAL TALENTS

"I've been a musician and guitarist for 30 years, but work sometimes gets in the way. I used to do a lot of activities with Centenary's radio station, WNTI."

## Elevating Athletics

A five-year agreement between Centenary University and St. Luke's University Health Network brings leading athletic training to Centenary's student-athletes, while advancing hands-on learning opportunities for students enrolled in the new exercise science major, which recently debuted at the University.

The pact sends St. Luke's athletic trainers to the Centenary University campus to assist student-athletes with prevention, examination, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of emergent, acute, or chronic injuries and medical conditions,

as well as strength and conditioning. Centenary student-athletes also have access to the full range of medical services provided by the St. Luke's network, including streamlined diagnostic testing, nutrition counseling, and specialists for conditions such as orthopedic injuries, concussions, and cardiac issues.



"Centenary is partnering with one of the best hospital health networks in the country," said Travis Spencer, the University's

director of athletics. "St. Luke's is a top 100 hospital. The ability for our student-athletes to have access to all the resources St. Luke's has to offer completely makes sense."

The agreement is part of a broader effort at Centenary to elevate intercollegiate athletics. Other priorities advanced through Athletics Department initiatives have included installing new equipment in the University's fitness center and introducing new facilities, such as an on-campus turf baseball field that debuted with an opening day double header last February, right before the pandemic halted intercollegiate sports across the nation.

On the academic side, the partnership will provide opportunities for Centenary students to gain hands-on experience with the St. Luke's athletic trainers, as well as through internships with the health network. "We're an institution of higher education, so we're always looking for ways to teach in the moment," Spencer said. "During this five-year agreement, we'll be looking for ways to build on these benefits and enhance the environment for our student-athletes and for all Centenary students."



From left, Christopher Festa '21, Jon Fleck '21, Samantha Gabriele '21, Madison Barofski '21, Keirra Doyle '21, Courtney Deloughery '21, Matt Oehrlein '22, and Timothy Kaiser III '21

## Back in Action

After more than a year on pause due to the pandemic, the Cyclones returned to the playing field for the spring season. While the Colonial States Athletics Conference (CSAC) had postponed games and matches for more than a year, Centenary University coaches and student-athletes remained committed to staying competition-ready through regular socially distanced workouts and teambuilding activities, including community service.

Still, when the CSAC announced the reinstatement, Cyclone student-athletes and coaches were ecstatic. "It meant so much to everyone, especially to the seniors who wanted one more season playing for Centenary," said Director of Athletics Travis Spencer. "Throughout the pandemic, our Cyclones continued to train with diligence and integrity, while adhering to stringent safety guidelines. Our season may have looked a little different this year, but we're grateful that our student-athletes had the opportunity to return to the field."

## At the Helm



Centenary University Director of Athletics Travis Spencer has been appointed acting commissioner of the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC). He will serve in the position as the CSAC conducts a search for a new commissioner.

Spencer came to Centenary in 2018 and has overseen an upgrade in the University's athletic programs,

including the dedication of a new home baseball complex and an athletic training partnership with St. Luke's University Health Network. He said of his new role with the CSAC, "Working with this group of athletic directors has been a joy and I look forward to seeing the conference from a different angle. We have a lot of work to do going into the fall."

## Cyclone Smart

Eighteen Centenary University Cyclones representing eight teams have been inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, the national honor society for student-athletes. "I take great pride in the academic achievements of all students," said Marianne Pratschler, Ed.D., '78/'79 associate professor of education and the Cyclones' faculty athletics representative. "But, when student-athletes excel in rigorous coursework while having the commitment and dedication to participate in intercollegiate sports, special acknowledgment is warranted. I am pleased and honored to approve these student-athletes for membership in Chi Alpha Sigma."

To be considered for membership, student-athletes must have five semesters at Centenary (or three semesters total as a transfer), earn a letter in their sport, have a 3.4 grade point average or higher and a recommendation from their coach, and be of good moral character. This year's inductees are:

**Jessica McKenzie '22**—Women's Basketball

**Amanda Lebelt '22**—Women's Soccer

**Saralyn Thunell '22**—Women's Soccer

**Joseph Ertl '22**—Men's Soccer

**Mahir Yilmaz '23**—Men's Soccer and Men's Basketball

**Bryan Harris '22**—Men's Basketball

**Tyler White '22**—Men's Basketball

**Amanda Tietjen '22**—Women's Lacrosse

**Christine Manser '22**—Women's Lacrosse

**Nicholas Gattuso '24**—Baseball

**Nick Grifone '21**—Baseball

**Paul Links '22**—Baseball

**Jared Miller '22**—Baseball

**Marty Lucibello '21**—Baseball

**Savannah Hettman '22**—Softball

**Meghan Hughes '21**—Softball

**Samantha Gabriele '21**—Softball

**Haakon Mathewson '22**—Wrestling

## A Message from the AAEB President



It is my pleasure to reach out to you on behalf of the Alumni Association Executive Board. I hope you have endured this last year as well as can be expected and are looking forward to a time without COVID. I can think of no better time to reach out to old Centenary friends. The University Alumni Office will be happy to assist you in obtaining contact information for classmates, former faculty, and friends.

Sadly, we lost many wonderful Centenarians this last year. **Arden Davis Melick '60/01 HA**, former trustee and first alumni president of the Centenary Board of Trustees, passed away in January. Arden was a trailblazer in many ways and served the University she loved for many years. Another sad loss, **Margot Nelson Carey '55**, died in November 2020. Margot and her sister, **Karen Nelson Drake '53**, both served on the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Executive Board. Recently, Margot served on the 150th Centenary Anniversary Committee. We lost **Edith Bolte Kutz '42**, an ardent supporter of Centenary, in January 2021. Her name can be seen in the Lackland Center on the theater she made possible.

These women were very special to me and many other members of the Centenary community. I often thought of getting together with them and other Centenary grads for lunch last year, but COVID got in the way. I regret every day that I did not reach out to them. For that reason, I encourage you to contact Centenary friends to plan a visit to campus for Alumni Weekend in April 2022. There is no time like the present to rekindle friendships made at Centenary.

The Alumni Association Executive Board and I very much look forward to seeing you on campus. Until then, please feel free to reach out to any member of our board with information about achievements, ideas for events, or just to touch base. We value each and every one of you! Our University is a very special place.

With all best wishes for a healthy summer,

**Carol Allen '72/74**  
President  
Centenary University Alumni Association Executive Board

The Alumni Association Executive Board will continue to deliver webinars through Centenary Stays Connected.

View the latest webinar here:  
<http://bit.ly/CUStaysConnected>



## Let us know what's new!

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

### 1940

**Laura Cullen Stephan**  
1 Fox Run Ln Apt 131  
Orchard Park, NY 14127-3164  
pcsf2920@yahoo.com

**Laura Cullen Stephan** writes: "I am currently living in assisted living in a continuing care resident community in Orchard Park, NY. We became locked down on March 13, 2020. Our activities committee was busy keeping us amused, since we could not see our families except on doctor visits. In March, we could have one-hour visits with our families in our room, as long as there were no COVID-19 outbreaks. We have been busy with table games, cards, dominoes, exercises, and sing-a-longs."

### 1949

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

**Florence Austerlough Larson** writes: "I now have two great-grandsons, whom I have seen and held. I celebrated my first great-grandson's first birthday with the rest of my family and will celebrate the second great-grandson's first birthday in June. My church is still meeting on Zoom, but our small group meets in a room at church. We sit six feet apart and wear masks, but at least we are together and can talk face to face. I have had my two COVID vaccines and plan to get out more."

**"Nancy Hendee Pain**, like everyone else, is tired of being housebound and has been working on a monster puzzle. She has not seen her great-granddaughter in California. Another baby, who lives near her, was born in December. She hopes all our classmates are doing well."

**"Carol Brown Robinson** is in independent living and can come and go. She spent Thanksgiving with her family. She walks in the park at her retirement place and has been making masks for people. They can't eat in the dining room, but can eat in their apartments or go out to restaurants. She thinks Centenary is very uptown now, a lot different from when our class was there when it was a two-year college for girls.

**"Nancy Morrell McClatchie** and **Audrey Henn Nawoschik** are both doing well and have caregivers in the daytime."

**Margaret Pfeiffer McCann** writes: "I have not seen a family member since last October. I am sure this, too, will pass, but when? We are all between a rock and a hard place—what to do? The way we were is a thing of the past. That is why the memories of Centenary in the late 1940s are sweet to think about. Stay safe. Stay well."

**Debra Ettinger Moss** writes: "There is no active COVID in my independent living community. People are able to go out in cars and go to beauty salons. I am on my iPad doing emails, reading, watching Netflix, Amazon, and Zooming. I have a weekly game of cards in a Zoom room with seven relatives who live in different states and I watch Smithsonian lectures. I signed up with Audible and speak to eastern friends on the phone. The pools, fitness center, and library here are open with restrictions. Now, I am trying to make doctors' appointments I have put off. I am doing some of my own cooking with an Instant Pot or grills for variety. I use my computer for ordering and Safeway deliveries. There has been hardly any rain, no winter to speak of, just sunny and beautiful every day."

**Peggy Bolte Castle** writes: "I spoke to **Laura Lechner Woodcock**, who is content in assisted living. **Carol Minster Pendergrass** still spends her summers in Maine with her family. She is grateful to be at Mercy Ridge retirement community, where she has good friends and life is safe and good."

**Betty Poppele Barrett** writes: "We are still under quarantine, but I have ventured out to a few stores and to doctors' appointments. I sewed a few masks for myself and family members. My daughter does my food shopping, and we are fortunate to have a wonderful farmers market where we shop for fresh produce every Sunday. My tomato and cucumber plants did not do well in the summer, but the chipmunks loved the few tomatoes that survived. We are all being careful and looking forward to this being over soon."

### 1956

**Phyllis Cotter Graf**  
46 Dennison Rd  
Essex, CT 06426-1351  
gggraf2@comcast.net

**Phyllis Cotter Graf** writes: "Lots of fond memories of my days at Centenary."



Janine Evans Brothers and Doug Brothers

### 1959

**Ann Hufnagel Rafferty**  
238 Ash Point Dr  
Owls Head, ME 04854-3522  
610-352-9516

**Ann Hufnagel Rafferty** reported (while wearing her Centenary University sweatshirt): "Just had my 82nd birthday, as did my college roommate from Centenary on the same day. Small world. I will certainly look forward to when this is all over and I can travel to see my family in California, Virginia, and Connecticut. Luckily, I do have one son who lives up here. I have become a great-grandmother, but have only seen my new great-grandson by pictures and Facebook."

### 1960

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Stanley Thomas**  
2206 Solmar Dr  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-5452  
BetsyThms@aol.com

**Betsy Stanley Thomas** writes: "Paul and I are well and have had our second COVID vaccine shots. It will be good to get out and do my own grocery shopping. Our daughter has done it since last March. Our daughter and son are thriving, as are the three grandchildren. For us, life has been good. I hope that each of you and your families have fared well in these uncertain times. Please write anytime and I will see that your news is included in Class News and Notes."

**Susan Nemetz Jager** writes: "My life has been a full one. I will be married to my husband, a Lafayette grad, for 60 years this August. We have two terrific daughters, both successful in their fields of employment, who bring us endless joy. I am forever involved in art and have played a lead role in a number of organizations over the years. In addition, I continue to create and enter juried shows, where I have received awards including from the Michigan Watercolor Society. Gardening, travel, and books all add to the joys of my life. **Sue Cady Moore** and I keep in touch. My best to all."

**Barrie Allison** writes: "I live in a Del Webb community, but have been totally isolated, with no visitors to our homes. I sneak out and leave the car/golf cart at an empty snowbird's home to play cards. I'm tired of masks, but feel better, as I have had my second COVID shot. I have been lucky that I can play golf four or five days a week. We tee off all summer at 6 or 6:30 am daily. It is too hot after 9:30 am. My playing has improved my handicap to 17.4 on a regulation 18-hole course. We found a few places for breakfast and lunch that are open. I've done many puzzles and watched Netflix and Amazon Prime movies. I may be able to get to the east coast this summer to see family, depending on conditions. Hopefully, we will go back to normal life soon. Cheers to all." Barrie adds that she has not been called Spicey since 1962.

A sad note from **Joanne Buhler Dawson**: "I am sorry to report that my dear husband, Ed, died at home at the age of 94, and I'm heartbroken. Many of you may remember Ed because we dated during my freshman year at Centenary. He was my escort at the Sweetheart Ball and other dances and events, on and off campus. (Aunt Kate's, anyone?) We were married for 55 years and lived in Fryeburg, Maine, for the past 48 years, where we enjoyed skiing, hiking, and sightseeing trips to Europe and throughout the USA. Ed was in good health and still driving until last May, when his health started failing rapidly. I cared for him at home with help from seven certified nursing assistants and four skilled care workers. It was difficult trying to hire enough help due to COVID. Thank goodness I was able to keep Ed out of a nursing home. I am now trying to recover from complete exhaustion. I did manage to take advantage of my free season pass (for skiers 80+) at Sunday River Ski Resort, where I have had a season pass for the last 23 years. I haven't slept in a bed in many months, and still often fall asleep in a kitchen chair before finishing my dinner. The mind is willing, but the body still hasn't gotten the message that self-care is now the order of the day."

"I miss my two dear friends and classmates who have passed away: **Carol Rudnick Soller** in 2018 and **Bess Nutt** in 2016. We enjoyed many visits together over the years and always kept in touch. Many years ago, I introduced Bess to Paul Repasy, a boyhood friend of Ed's. The two of them hit it off immediately and they became mates for life, with Bess thoroughly enjoying a maternal role in an instant family. "As hard as it was to have our home turned into a nursing facility for the past six months, the steady stream of caregivers coming and going did prevent my succumbing to the perils of social

isolation. Food was delivered and I heated it instead of cooking. It will be good to get back into a sane routine of cooking my own meals and baking artisan bread. But first, I need to learn how to handle the unfamiliar tasks of bill paying, bookkeeping, and finance in the middle of income tax season. Onward!"

**Ann Dothard Walters** writes: "Not much news to report. We have been safe from COVID-19 and received our second shots on March 26. The quarantine had me reading more than ever. Favorites include anything by Fredrik Backman, especially *Beartown*, *A Man Called Ove*, and a touching novella titled *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer*. I also enjoyed *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan, wife of C. S. Lewis, and JoJo Moyes' book, *Giver of Stars*. I had to stop my part-time job babysitting two little girls during the quarantine, but resumed again in the summer. By the fall, they were back in person at the private school they attend, and it has been fine. I am with them about two evenings a week, which keeps me happy and sane. The human spirit is strong, and we are beginning to see some light at the end of this long tunnel. We feel blessed to live in sunny Florida and wish for everyone a beautiful and safe summer."

From **Dale House Gress**: "My husband, Jay, and I moved last June to a continuing care retirement community in Lafayette Hill, Penn. We are independent residents at the Hill at Whitmarsh. We were fortunate to receive both shots for the vaccine in February, which allowed us to return to our home in Palm City, Fla., and escape the miserable weather in Pennsylvania. Our daughter is a teacher in Chestnut Hill, Penn. She is married with two children at Penn State. Her husband is a chef with a successful restaurant in Mount Airy, Penn. They live six minutes from our Pennsylvania residence and throughout the pandemic we visited once a week with masks on. Our son is married with two children and resides in Hoboken, NJ. His daughter will be a freshman in the fall at the University of Syracuse business school's music and production program. Our son works as a senior vice president for Sony Music in New York City. His wife is an editor at Hippocrene Books, also in New York City. Their son is in sixth grade. Jay and I have been enjoying warm, tropical breezes in Florida, which has enabled us to play golf with friends. We feel fortunate to have escaped our harsh winter. In addition to golf three times a week, I enjoy the water aerobics at our fitness center. When not outdoors, I play virtual bridge with friends twice a week. My other hobbies include gardening and reading. I recommend



## Heartfelt Gift

Longtime Centenary University donors **George W. (HA'07) and Nancy Johns ('79/81/06) Paffendorf** wanted to find a lasting way to honor the inauguration of Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., as the University's 14th president. They found an especially meaningful solution—providing a \$700 challenge match to support a new scholarship for Centenary's Operation Centaur, a therapeutic riding program for veterans.

The grassroots fundraising effort—spearheaded by the University's offices of Community Service, Veteran Relations, and Advancement—originally set a goal of \$1,400 to honor the University's 14th president. The initiative has smashed the original goal, to date exceeding that amount by 467%, including an anonymous \$2,000 contribution.

The effort is particularly appropriate: Dr. Murphy, his wife, Jeanne, and George Paffendorf are all retired U.S. Army officers, and Major Paffendorf serves as the director of Operation Centaur, which is part of the University's Therapeutic Riding at Centenary (TRAC) program. In addition, Mrs. Paffendorf was a longtime University employee who has served more than 20 years on Centenary's Alumni Association Executive Board.

Major Paffendorf said, "Nancy and I wanted to honor the commitment of Dr. and Mrs. Murphy to veterans by showing our support for this new scholarship, which will allow veterans to participate in Operation Centaur free of charge."

three books: *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre, *The Splendid and The Vile* by Erik Larson, and *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham.”

From **Janine Evans Brothers**: “Doug and I are well and will be celebrating our 58th wedding anniversary in June. We retired three years ago and moved to a lovely retirement community in Wolfeboro, NH, after having lived in Massachusetts for 49 years, where we raised our three children, a son and two daughters, first in Duxbury and then in Plymouth. As an only child, I am thrilled to be a grandmother to eight grandchildren—five boys and three girls (two identical twin girls). Doug is also an identical twin. I have had many occupations over the years—medical secretary, certified nursing assistant, and my favorite, a bookseller for 20 years at Barnes & Noble. My passion is and always has been getting down and dirty in the soil and over the years I have had many gardens to maintain. Right now, I volunteer at a beautiful place in New Hampshire called Castle in the Clouds, where I can continue that love. We have been fully vaccinated and can now see the light at the end of this very, very long and frightening tunnel. Stay well.”

## 1961

**Joyce Fierro Velzy**  
1253A NW Bentley Circle  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
joyvelz@juno.com  
772-873-9008

**Joyce Fierro Velzy** writes: “I received an email from **Sue Fippin Scattergood** with some really interesting news. While going through an old envelope with her wedding mementos and newspaper announcements on a rainy day, Sue wrote, ‘Lo and behold, I find that you and I share our wedding date of almost 55 years ago on June 11. One side of the newspaper had my wedding announcement, and another had yours.’ Seeing the name of my maid of honor, it seems Sue went to a school dance with her cousin—what a coincidence! Sue continued, ‘Both of my kids and four out of five grandkids live nearby and we have continued to visit, wearing masks. Ron and I have both received the vaccine so we’re feeling safer.’

“It’s always great to hear from **Molly Power Balzer**: ‘Could there possibly be any good news to report, other than our 60th anniversary of Centenary graduation—are we that old? I am eating and reading, bird watching, and binge TV watching. I have had two Pfizer shots and two COVID tests. My happy news is that I went to my old beach house on Anna Maria Island, Fla., on April 1 for a whole month. My daughter and two granddaughters went with me. All

have been vaccinated. They stayed two weeks, and then I was alone. P.S.: Smirnoff and melatonin are lifesavers!’

“Both Sue and Molly got together with some Centenary classmates, including **Gail Donovan**, quite a bit over the years. Sadly, Gail passed away last September. Her son took wonderful care of Gail while she was ill.

“Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit one of our classmates hard. **Polly Hare Taftrate** writes: ‘Heavy weights were lifted from my shoulders, or should I say lungs, once I received my second COVID-19 vaccine. Yes, I did have COVID -19 in early April 2020, along with severe pneumonia. Hearing the song, *Here Comes the Sun*, had new meaning after nine days in Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut, where I received excellent care thanks to a team of three doctors. I’m happy to be alive. I’m not out of the woods yet as, thanks to COVID causing some heart problems, I now have a cardiologist and pulmonologist. But I’m thinking positive thoughts.’

“**Susan ‘Susie’ Pederson Lamberti** is glad Centenary provides us with the opportunity to share with classmates what’s going on in our lives: ‘Of course, this past year was completely different—no travels, no mini-reunions with my cherished Centenary ‘Big Six’ friends, very few family gatherings, etc. It’s been a very long winter. Thank God for Zoom and FaceTime! I do look forward to spring and resuming golf and tending to our big yard and garden. My greatest hope is being

able to see my Centenary sisters again. I’m wishing all good health and good times as we enjoy spring.”

## 1962

**Judith Braddock Andrews**  
405 N Interlachen Ave  
Winter Park, FL 32789-3202  
judiand1635@yahoo.com

**Judith Braddock Andrews** writes: “**Carol Letson Christensen, Janet Kipp Tribus, and Jay Lenfestey Pritchard** have lunch several times a year in Vero Beach. Janet and Jay are full-time residents, while Carol still spends her summers in Nantucket. Janet is a new widow. Janet’s husband, Don, died in November 2019. She maintains an art studio just down the way on A1A.”



Carol Letson Christensen, Janet Kipp Tribus, and Jay Lenfestey Pritchard

## 1963

**Ellen Fiencke Whitaker**  
7630 Somerset Ln  
Manlius, New York 13104-1011  
ellenwhitaker.ny@gmail.com

**Susan Elberty Vernon** writes: “After graduating from Centenary with a degree in the preschool program, I went on to Ohio Northern University, where I got my teaching degree. After graduation, I married Art Vernon and taught fourth grade until he earned his pharmacy degree.

“We then moved to Orrville, Ohio, where Art did most of his interning and I taught fifth and sixth grades. I stopped teaching to raise two children. As my two children grew, I became the director of Christian education at Trinity United Methodist Church in Orrville until retirement. The kids married and we now have four grandchildren—one in Orrville and three in Texas. However, our travel has been curtailed somewhat, especially in the age of COVID-19.

“I still keep in touch with **Karen Davis Price** and my former Washabau roommate, **Jane Eiby Heffernan**. Memories of Centenary that remain are the beautiful campus, my great friends, the Centenary Singers’ trip to Europe, the Peter, Paul, and Mary concert, and Dad’s Day. It was a very special time of my life.

“I like to walk, read, do yoga, and also volunteer for the Salvation Army. Art and I have been married for 54 years and hope to celebrate with the whole family this summer for our 55th—somewhere near water!”



Ellen Fiencke Whitaker

**Jane Eiby Heffernan** writes: “I graduated from Centenary, where I was enrolled in the pre-school program. It was a challenging program, and much that I learned there I carried with me throughout my life, raising my four children and now helping with my eight grandchildren.

“While at Centenary, my classmate and friend, **Betsy Mueller**—who roomed on the same floor as I did in Washabau—wanted to fix me up on a blind date with the roommate of her boyfriend from Colgate. The plan was to spend the weekend in New York City, but I declined. I went on to pursue an advanced degree in education from the University of Hartford.

“After graduating from the University of Hartford, I went to work. During a conversation with a young man named Michael in my apartment building, I discovered he was the exact same guy Betsy wanted to fix me up with a few years ago—the roommate of Betsy’s boyfriend at Colgate!

“We hit it off, began dating, and Michael and I were married three years later, during his last year of law school. We settled here in West Haven, Conn., where Michael was born and raised. I worked the first year we were married, but as my children arrived, I became a stay-at-home mom.

“Michael specialized in probate law and eventually served as a probate judge in West Haven for 32 years. As our children grew, I went back to work and was elected the city treasurer for West Haven for 10 years during my husband’s term as probate judge. Who would have thought a husband-and-wife team would run on the same ticket, get elected, and serve their city as elected officials? Now, we have celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary.

“My oldest son, Michael, attended law school, during which time he worked evenings as a stand-up comedian. Although he graduated from law school and passed the bars in Connecticut and New York, he chose to relocate to Hollywood, where he has acted and written screenplays. Since then, my youngest son, Patrick, has joined him.

“I still have very fond memories of singing with the Centenary Singers. One summer, two groups of girls went to Europe with Mr. Brown, Centenary’s music director, and his wife as chaperones. We sang in several countries to very receptive audiences. Another fond memory was spring break in Bermuda with classmates. Also, I remember Peter, Paul, and Mary giving a concert at Centenary, and making a cup of tea for Paul! I still keep in touch via Facebook with **Susan Elberty, Betsy Mueller** and **Karen Davis**.”

“COVID put a damper on our usual plans, but we all happily survived. Usually, we go down to Captiva, Fla., every April, but we didn’t this year. Every other year, our entire family—all 18 of us—meets at our home for Christmas, but last Christmas, we did not. Instead, we all gathered on Zoom. It was very different, but fun. To make up for canceled plans last year, we have rented two houses this summer for a week on Lake Placid in New York state, where we all will be together for an in-person family reunion.”

## 1979

**Susan VanSchelven Fischer**  
43 Princeton Ave  
Midland Park, NJ 07432-1828

**Jennifer Leighton** writes: “Life is a whirlwind. I graduated from Centenary in 1979 and went to New York City for a job in journalism. It was good: Girl meets boy from Princeton, who joins the United States Air Force and winds up flying jets in the United Kingdom in 1986. Following a love of horses and a dream of equestrian teaching, I worked at a horse riding stable to gain British Horse Society credentials.

“Life happened. Chris was born in Arizona in 1983 and Emmelaine was born at home, under water—before it was popular—in 1988. Staying true to my communication major at Centenary, her birth was televised. I never returned to America. I trained to be a horse chiropractor here in England. The kids grew up and propagated. Currently, I’m in Glastonbury with my daughter and

## Art is Life

Artist **Janet Kipp Tribus ‘62** was recently featured in a story in Vero Beach 32963 on her more than 30 years as a painter. For many years, Tribus focused on landscapes, reminiscent of her former hometown in Montclair, NJ. Several years ago, she was inspired to move toward abstract art, beginning each painting by drawing directly onto the canvas with her brush. She told the publication, “I never know what it’s going to end up being. I just start with lines, and swooping arm movements. I try to keep some lines straight, so that my curvy lines don’t make you woozy. But I like to do swooping things.” She added, “I have to do what excites me. It’s like feeding yourself.”



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Kathleen Lascky Turner ‘70  
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Linda Van Winkle Watkins ‘62  
Bruce Murphy Ed.D.  
Karen DiMaria

† Deceased

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Nancy Johns Paffendorf ‘79/81/06

Alumni Representative

Edward Yaw, Ed.D.

Jill Kracov Zinckgraf, Ed.D.

### Trustees Emeritus

Wolfgang Gstatenbauer ‘84/13 HA  
Chairman Emeritus

Arden Davis Melick ‘60/01 HA †  
Chair Emerita

## Alumni Association Executive Board

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President

Caitlin Parenteau ‘09  
First Vice President

Yolanda Sheffield Williams ‘06  
Second Vice President

Nancy Johns Paffendorf ‘79/81/06  
Secretary (Board) and Alumni Trustee

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Co-Treasurer

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Co-Treasurer

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Past President

Audrey R. Hines Bonaparte-Watts ‘78  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

Karen DiMaria  
University Advancement

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Angie Desai ‘07

Mary Marion Eckel ‘09/11/13

Zachary Heymann ‘13

Virginia George Hook ‘44

Sandile C. Manzini ‘11

Angela Rodriguez Moore ‘90

Vita Romanelli-Young ‘78/80

Bryan Watkinson ‘07

Brooke A. Smith Westenberger ‘13

† Deceased

beautiful grandson for the lockdown. I have lived well, been to a lot of places, and had lots of adventures."

### 2004/2006

**Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks**  
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

**Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks** writes: "Greetings to my classmates of 2004 and 2006. My name is Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks and I am the past president of the Alumni Association Executive Board. I hope you and your family are well. Although we aren't physically on campus, there are many virtual programs and events happening at Centenary and I hope you are partaking of these many 'get-togethers.' A special shout-out to my CAPS classmates. Fellow alums, keep in touch; we would love to hear from you and what's been happening in your lives. Send an email either to me or to the Advancement Office. Be well and safe and I hope to see you, in the not too distant future, on the Centenary campus."

### 2009

**Caitlin Parenteau** writes: "I am a real estate sales associate out of the Weichert Realtors office in Sparta, NJ, celebrating seven years this July in the business. I started selling children's books as a consultant with Usborne Books & More in fall 2020. I have been holding virtual book parties right on Facebook, which have proven successful. My son, Raymond, turned 13-months-old March 15 and he has been doing very well. The Centenary Stays Connected virtual series that the Alumni Association Executive Board created has been very successful since we started holding these sessions last

fall. We have several presentations lined up, so anyone interested in attending, please contact alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu for more info."



Ray, Raymond, and Caitlin celebrated Raymond's first birthday in February.

### 2014

*Racing Post* recently featured a blog post penned by **Erin McLaughlin**, a Centenary equine studies graduate and recipient of a Godolphin Flying Start scholarship. Through Godolphin Flying Start, a leadership and management training program, McLaughlin is spending two years at Kildangan Stud in Ireland, which will take her to five countries studying and working with thoroughbred industry leaders. A graduate of Delaware Law School, she wrote about her experiences as a first-year scholarship trainee, which combined virtual studies with in-person activities.



Erin McLaughlin

### 2015

**Anthony LaManna** was recently sworn in as a police officer in Mount Olive, NJ. A criminal justice major at Centenary, he joined the Mount Olive Police Department in 2017 as a part-time communications officer and became a full-time communications officer two years later. LaManna completed the Mount Olive Police Department Field Training Program and is a graduate of the 94th Basic Police Class of the Morris County Police Academy.



Officer Anthony LaManna

### 2021

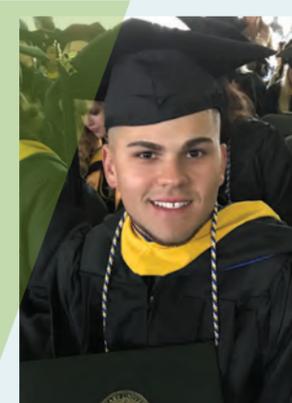
**Pete Morris, Ed.D.**, completed the Centenary University doctoral program and would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Tim Frederiks and all of the faculty who provided him with a great experience here at the University. Dr. Morris is shown here with his mother, Nancy Thaiss, who proudly made a tribute gift to the Educational Leadership Program at Centenary in her son's honor.



Dr. Pete Morris and Nancy Thaiss

# GOING PLACES

Meet three alumni who have leveraged their Centenary University education into fantastic graduate school opportunities.



Ryan St. John '17

**Doctor on Deck** When Ryan St. John '17 first enrolled at Centenary, he had one thing on his mind: Baseball. Early in his college career, St. John focused on the sport he loved, while paying just enough attention to his classes to earn decent grades. Then, the biology major met Assistant Professor of Biology James Monks, D.C.

"Dr. Monks listened to me, laid out all of my options, and introduced me to various forms of medicine, including osteopathic medicine," recalls St. John. "He reinforced what I had to do and gave me the encouraging push to keep going. Dr. Monks reminded me that you don't need to be perfect, but you have to put in the work."

St. John did put in the work, including improving his classroom performance and completing several internships. After graduation, he earned a master's in biology from New York University and now works as a care coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering. In September, he will continue his path to become a doctor at Rowan University's Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program. St. John says, "The biggest impact Centenary had on my experience was my relationships with my classmates, teammates, coaches, administrators, and professors. They played a huge part in my story."



Emma Kerr '21

**Cornell Bound** Emma Kerr '21 is poised to achieve her longtime dream of attending veterinary school. This September, she will enroll at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. An equine pre-vet major with minors in biology and chemistry, Kerr was president of the Student Government Association, the Pre-professional Club, and the Equine Club, which she founded in her junior year.

While applying to veterinary school, Kerr had some big shoes to fill. Centenary has a near-perfect track record for veterinary school acceptances over the past four years. Her acceptance to the Ivy League institution continues Centenary's tradition of placing graduates at prestigious veterinary schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, North Carolina State, and Ross University, as well as Cornell and Tufts University, where Kerr also gained acceptance. Today, she knows she made the right college choice: "Centenary is the place to be if you want to go to vet school."



Katie Zack '20

**Columbia Climate Studies** In March 2020, Katie Zack '20 was packed and ready to embark on a trip to Guyana as a member of the Peace Corp. The pandemic abruptly ended her dream. An environmental science major, Zack soon regrouped and began exploring her options with the assistance of Julie LaBar, Ph.D., assistant professor of environmental science and director of the Centenary University Center for Sustainability. Her next step: A master's degree in climate and society at Columbia University's new Climate School.

The recipient of an associate degree from Warren County Community College, Zack was drawn to Centenary's environmental science program for its emphasis on "hard sciences" like organic chemistry and toxicology, as well as policy-based courses such as global sustainability. "Centenary has such a well-rounded program, with faculty who really want you to succeed in life," notes Zack, who took part in Midnight Run, environmental cleanups, and a Soles4Souls service trip to Guatemala while enrolled at Centenary.

Zack is planning a career in environmental policy for a nonprofit or a government agency like the US Department of State or National Park Service. She says, "Environmental science is such a broad field, and Centenary really helps you to figure out what route you want to take. I think that definitely gives me an edge."

## PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

**Would you like to graduate sooner by earning college credit for prior life experiences?**

If you meet the eligibility requirements below, contact your advisor to discuss earning college-level credit through a portfolio process, where you have the potential to earn college credits—at half the cost and half the time—based on your prior experiential learning experiences!

### Student eligibility requirements:

- Minimally 23 years of age
- Completed at least 8 credits at Centenary University
- Not currently completing their last eight (8) credits at Centenary University

OR

- Not currently in, nor will be entering, their last semester of study prior to graduation at Centenary University

### For more information:

Dr. Jeff Carter  
Director of Prior Learning Assessment Centenary University  
400 Jefferson Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
Phone: (908) 852-1400, ext. 5065  
Email: jeffrey.carter@centenaryuniversity.edu



**Virtual Alumni Reunion**  
*All Class Years!*

**Saturday, June 12th, 2021 • 3-5pm EST**  
[alumni2.centenaryuniversity.edu/VirtualReunion](http://alumni2.centenaryuniversity.edu/VirtualReunion)

# ARDEN DAVIS MELICK '60/01 HA

## Tireless champion for Centenary University and communications pioneer who spearheaded the state's most famous ad campaign.

Communications trailblazer Arden Davis Melick '60/01 HA had a deep and abiding love for Centenary University. Chair *emerita* of the University's Board of Trustees, she provided insightful counsel and important support, helping to shepherd the former all-women's college to a coeducational institution. Melick passed away peacefully at her Denville, NJ, home on Jan. 13, just after celebrating her 80th birthday via Zoom.

Melick's ties to Centenary stretched to her childhood. Her mother, Bernice Spies Davis '31, was a member of the first graduating class of Centenary Junior College. When her mother served as president of the Centenary Alumni Association, Melick accompanied her to meetings and events. After graduating from Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ, in 1958, she followed in her mother's footsteps, enrolling in what had become Centenary College for Women. She soon made her mark as

class vice president and a member of the two-year college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, and honorary senior leadership society, Phi Iota.

A classmate recalled that Melick was an excellent student and very active at Centenary—the kind of person who would set her mind to something and do it. In fact, Melick was so involved that the two captions listed with her yearbook photo read “Got another meeting” and “Sure, I'll do it for you.”

“The education was fabulous,” Melick said in a 2006 interview for the Centenary College *Alumni News*. She recounted a memorable experience with a chemistry professor who appreciated creative approaches to assignments. Asked to pen a paper explaining the properties of uranium, Melick wrote from the perspective of a reporter interviewing two chemical properties at the swanky Brown Derby restaurant. The paper was a hit in class and was even published in a chemistry journal. The professor told Melick she had a real talent for making complicated technical information clear and advised a career combining science and communications.

Melick's early work included writing for the Associated Press and *Soap Opera Digest*, and editing *The Mobile Travel Guide*. After the birth of her three sons, she earned a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and a master's degree from Syracuse University. She and her second husband, Frederic T. Shapiro, lived in Manhattan until moving to Denville in 2015.

A pioneer in corporate communications, Melick was a founder of Executive Women of New Jersey, and she used her considerable talents to develop corporate identities for Fidelity Union Bank, Suburban Propane Corporation, National Distillers and Chemical Corporation, and Brooklyn Union Gas Corporation/KeySpan Energy. As the deputy assistant secretary of commerce in the administration of New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, Melick spearheaded the unforgettable “New Jersey and You” campaign. She was inducted into the New Jersey Advertising Hall of Fame and served as president of the Advertising Club of New Jersey. Melick retired as a director of consulting services at PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Melick also found the time to author four books about US presidents and their spouses: *Wives of the Presidents*; *A Taste of White House Cooking*; *Dolley Madison, First Lady*; and, with Sid Frank, *Presidential Tidbits and Trivia*.

When Melick turned her focus back to Centenary, she



Arden Davis Melick was a dedicated supporter of Centenary University. Her contributions helped to grow the University and supported educational access for students.

joined the Board of Trustees in 1972. In 2006, she became the first alumna and first woman to hold the position of board chair. At the time, she was also the longest serving member of the board. In addition to serving as a Centenary trustee, Melick established the Arden Davis Melick '60 and Bernice Spies Davis '31 Endowed Scholarship, providing support to students interested in the arts. She also served as chair of academic affairs, was a member of the President's Circle, and actively participated in campaign steering councils for the first two phases of *The Campaign for Centenary College*. Melick was especially proud of her service during the period of Centenary's transition from a two-year women's college to a four-year co-educational institution. The University presented her with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2001 in recognition of her service.

“Arden epitomizes the Centenary spirit,” said the late Harris F. Smith, chairman *emeritus* of the Board of Trustees. “There has never been an occasion during the past 20 years that she has declined an invitation to serve her *alma mater*. She is a tireless advocate on behalf of Centenary.”

## EDITH BOLTE KUTZ '42

### Prominent businesswoman and philanthropist



Edith Bolte Kutz '42 was passionate about helping others. A versatile businesswoman, she devoted considerable energy to building support for a host of nonprofits she held dear, including Centenary University. Kutz passed away on Jan. 2 at her home in Florida.

At Centenary, the Edith Bolte Kutz '42 Black Box Theater stands as a testament to her dedication to her *alma mater*. She attended the University when it was a two-year institution called Centenary College for Women. After graduation, she went on to take over movie theater and real estate businesses run by her father. Kutz later branched out into a successful career that also included bowling alleys, funeral homes, investing, and pheasant farming.

Kutz's talents were many, including receiving certifications as a small aircraft pilot, mortician, and real estate agent, and she was also ordained as a deacon of the Presbyterian Church. She maintained her love of the arts throughout her life, first as a member of her church choir in her youth, and later, as an arts patron who supported a number of organizations and generously funded the theater named in her honor on Centenary's campus. The University presented Kutz with the Van Winkle Achievement Award in 1992.

She leaves a sister, Peggy Bolte Castle '49; a son, Kenneth Marshall (Melinda); a daughter, Janis Nadeau (late: Mark Nadeau); grandsons Chase and Ian Marshall; a granddaughter, Kathryn Marshall; and many extended family and friends.

## SANDRA GENDUSO

### Professor Emeritus



Sandra Genduso, Professor *Emeritus*, passed away May 11, 2021. Sandy was a long-time member of the Centenary Community, beginning her career at Centenary in 1991, as Reading Instructor/Tutor for the Academic Success Center (ASC). In 1995, she became Director of ASC/EOF/Student Affairs. In 2000, she joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Education and was appointed Chair of that department in 2008. She held the position as Associate Professor/Chair from 2010 until she retired in 2016.

## In Memoriam

Nancy Peterson Bay '81	1/25/21	Jane White MaGinley '43	1/11/21
Frank Carchia '96	12/29/20	Abigail Hazel McGregor '62	1/21/21
Stuart Christie	9/2/20	Marilyn Cox McNamara '48	2/9/21
Margaret McMenamin Finkelstein '00	11/19/20	Arden Davis Melick '60/01 HA	1/13/21
Sandra Genduso	5/11/21	Kathryn Keenoy Murdoch '48	3/1/21
Cynthia Logan Haass '50	3/5/21	Colleen Engel Roche '80	1/1/21
Dorothy Goedecke Hunt '51	3/6/21	Virginia Kulp Saylor '45	1/12/21
Lois Rossy Knechel '47	11/4/20	Priscilla Forster Sellery '61	10/13/20
Edith Bolte Kutz '42	1/2/21	Jo Ann Tompkins Withington '57	1/3/21
Mary Luzi '85	3/6/21		



400 Jefferson Street  
Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840



IN THE  
KITCHEN

Saturday, **May 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
Virtual Scholarship  
Fundraising Event

**6 PM**

**Tickets:**

[Centenaryuniversity.edu/cu-in-the-kitchen/](https://centenaryuniversity.edu/cu-in-the-kitchen/)