



CENTENARIAN



*We Mean
Business*

Inside A Hero's Legacy



Glam Gal

One of the newest horses in the barn at Centenary University, Barbie is all dolled up for her photo debut. But she's more than just a pretty face. This beauty works hard serving riders with disabilities in the University's therapeutic riding program. Centenary acquired Barbie through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

Photo: Jenna O'Connor '16

WELCOME



Shaping Our Future

Soon after arriving on campus in January 2020, I set out to enact a strategic planning process that would shape the future of Centenary University. It's a bold effort—undertaken at the beginning of a worldwide pandemic—marshaling the talents of our faculty and administration and strengthened by new partnerships with businesses and other educational institutions.

Nearly two years later, the preliminary results have been remarkable. In the cover story of this issue, "We Mean Business," you'll read about a host of new academic programs introduced by our Business Department. Informed by the input of industry leaders, these new majors and concentrations are poised to address emerging market demand for professionals who can analyze data, streamline the supply chain, and effectively

manage complex business issues. The University is also continuing our expansion into the health sciences, addressing growing need for trained medical clinicians.

Centenary is evolving in other ways, as well. We have expanded our academic programs for members of the military, recently introducing the Etchberger Scholars Program, named for a Vietnam War hero and Medal of Honor recipient. The program provides opportunities for active duty air and space personnel to earn their college degrees. We've also stepped up the level of Cyclone athletics through our new affiliation with the Atlantic East Conference.

This remarkable progress is a testament to those who have worked tirelessly to advance the mission of this University. It has truly taken a village, comprised of faculty, administrators, staff, students, alumni, donors, and friends. While there is still much to be done, I can confidently say that Centenary does, indeed, mean business.

Dr. Bruce Murphy
President



This remarkable progress is a testament to those who have worked tirelessly to advance the mission of this University.

- 2. **University News**
- 6. **Centenary Spotlight**
- 8. **We Mean Business**
Market savvy programs and talented faculty propel Centenary graduates to career success.
- 12. **Q&A**
Associate Professor Stephen Davis discusses the power of theater and literature.
- 14. **A Hero's Legacy**
New Etchberger Scholars Program honors Vietnam War hero.
- 16. **Athletics**
- 18. **Class News and Notes**

ON THE COVER

Darnel Burnette '22
Business major and
Enactus team member

HOW TO REACH US

Editorial Offices
Email:
karen.dimaria@
centenaryuniversity.edu
908-852-1400 ext. 2387

Editorial & Design Services
Erbach Communications Group

- /centenaryuniversity
- @Centenary_NJ
- /edu/centenary-university-18854
- @centenaryuniversity

First Patent for Centenary



Enactus Director Linda Poisseroux, Ph.D., third from left, and current team members display the University's first patent. Inset, the first prototype for Shieldz Wearable Technologies.



Creative thinking and hard work by Enactus—Centenary's competitive business team—have paid off big-time, earning the University its first patent for a fatigue alert device designed by students who have worked on its development since 2016. Called Shieldz Wearable Technologies, the product can be worn on the wrist to detect drowsiness in truck drivers and other motorists.

"We were ecstatic when we heard that the patent had been approved," recalled Linda Poisseroux, Ph.D., assistant professor of business and director of Enactus. "This was a very long time coming. Our students worked hard on developing the product and then pursuing the patent process."

"Centenary students are so self-motivated. There's a startup kind of energy here."

When the project began, the Enactus team first contacted a trucking company to explore interest in a product that could battle drowsy driving and potentially reduce the number of accidents and deaths on the road. Then, the Enactus inventors went to work researching and developing the first prototype. Students found a technology to emulate and transformed it into a wrist device with sensors and a logic board. The wristband detects electro-dermal activity changes in skin conduction, temperature, and sweat to gauge states of fatigue. Dr. Poisseroux observed as students brought soldering irons and other tools into the classroom to build the prototype.

"As we moved forward, we realized it wasn't just truckers who would find this product useful," said Dr. Poisseroux, noting that a \$2,500 grant from AIG and a \$5,000 prize won at the Ford Mobility Challenge have helped to fund ongoing development. "It would also be helpful for people who work swing shifts, medical workers, airline pilots, train conductors, police officers, and others."

The lengthy patent application process presented another learning opportunity for the Centenary students. A patent application, or claim, must be precise, organized, and technical—and the device being patented must be significantly different from other claims for similar devices. The process hit many roadblocks, and last December the team was not optimistic after meeting with a patent attorney. However, the students went back and edited the claim, also adding a new optical sensor to the device. The team received news of the patent's approval last spring. Listed as inventors on the patent are Dr. Poisseroux, as well as Kyle Maris '17, Jeff Rottingen, Colin Hudson '19, and Heriberto Medina Jr. '20.

Now, the University must decide next steps for the patent. A few of the options include further prototyping to advance the product, licensing, or outright sale of the patent. "Centenary students are so self-motivated," Dr. Poisseroux said. "There's a startup kind of energy here. Students are very hands-on and have a lot of grit. I am so proud Centenary can give students these kinds of opportunities."



SECRET TO HIS SUCCESS



As a high school student, Brandon Yu '21 couldn't envision himself attending college. A resident of North Brunswick, NJ, he faced two major hurdles that many first-generation college students encounter: Scarce financial resources and lack of knowledge about the college admissions process. "There were points

when I didn't know if I would go to college," said Yu, the son of Taiwanese immigrants. "Most of the time, it was just my mom and me trying to figure out how to apply to college and for financial aid."

Then, he found the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Centenary University, which provides underserved students with academic, social, and financial support to pursue their college degree. EOP Director Devon Vialva '97/08 and Assistant Director Eunice Boyd place a strong emphasis on community, leadership, and mentorship from EOP alumni to support students in their studies. The expectations are high, Yu said, noting it's no coincidence that EOP students hold many of the leadership roles in the University's Student Government Association.

Yu was recently recognized with the Educational Opportunity Fund Outstanding Achievement Award from the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration at Centenary and is a graduate assistant resident director on campus: "It's the culture of the EOP at Centenary—everybody feels they have a responsibility to lead in some way. There's an expectation that we will be the best we can possibly be. We all have contributions to make."



Photo credit: Brian Moore

Welcome Home!

Moving students into the residence halls for the fall semester was a team effort, when Centenary University hosted its annual Move-In Days in late August. Faculty, staff, and alumni were on hand to assist students, while trained therapy dogs were available to help break the ice and ease the anxieties of students living away from home for the first time.

Director's Choice



Assistant Professor of Communication Boris Gavrilovic, left, and Isaiah Anderson '23

Growing up in Westfield, NJ, Isaiah Anderson '23 was one of the few students of color in his elementary school. So, he was surprised to learn that his hometown once had a thriving district known as the Black Professional Zone, which included the businesses of prominent African American families from the 1920s through the 1970s. The Centenary University junior's documentary, *Black Professional Zone*, was recently awarded a Director's Choice Award at the 47th New Jersey Young Filmmakers Festival.

A communication major with a minor in television and film, Anderson created the eight-minute film for a class called Documentary Indie Films. Assistant Professor of Communication Boris Gavrilovic encouraged him to enter the competition. "I was excited when I won the award, and honestly, proud

of my hard work," Anderson said. Anderson's interest in photography and film was sparked by a high school photography class. While he has an eye condition called cortical visual impairment, which causes him to see things as if they're in a broken mirror, he has learned to compensate through vision therapy. "When I was in high school, my photos were always slanted," explained Anderson, a member of the Honors Program at Centenary. "I've gotten much better at it now, and when I'm shooting video, there are no issues."

The documentary has helped him to reconnect with his hometown: "In my elementary school, the only people of color I knew were a few students and the janitor. I did not know this history was here. Now, I feel like I'm really part of Westfield."

Cyclones in the House!



Yankee great Sparky Lyle, left, with Centenary President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.



The stands were filled with Cyclones when the Somerset Patriots hosted Centenary University night on Sept. 10. With the Centenary logo prominent on the centerfield scoreboard, University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., threw out the first pitch. Fans of the Patriots—the New York Yankees AA affiliate—got a chance to learn more about Centenary at a staffed information table and on the scoreboard in the stadium.



Mission: Leadership

Three Centenary staff members and current doctoral students took over the microphone of WNTI's *Leadership Matters* on Oct. 6 to interview University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D.

Guest hosts Jason Geleski '21, army veteran and Centenary University head men's basketball coach, Brittney Carty, admissions counselor, and Kerry Mullins, vice president for student life and dean of students, are all enrolled in the University's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program. Regular hosts are Timothy Frederiks, Ed.D., assistant professor of education and graduate program director for the Education Department, and Francis Gavin, J.D.

Dr. Murphy detailed the path that led him to Centenary's presidency, from Boy Scouts to the military to academia and his current position. He explained the importance of focusing on an organization's mission: "You know it's bigger than you. Your job is to ensure that mission is accomplished." He noted that the guest hosts are examples of how administration and staff are committed to the mission of care and support for Centenary students through continued learning and skill building.

Dr. Murphy also answered questions about attributes of leadership and leading during a crisis, and advised future leaders, "When you see an opportunity, don't be afraid to take it."

Cyclone Stronger

TRAINING AND EDUCATION ARE KEY

The United States Department of Justice has awarded a \$300,000 grant to Centenary University to continue Cyclone Strong, an initiative to strengthen awareness, prevention, and on-campus services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking (SADVS). The three-year continuation grant funds a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team at Centenary, as well as a part-time program coordinator to oversee and manage the initiative. Cyclone Strong was established in 2018 through a first round of United States Department of Justice grant funding.

Through the CCR Team, Centenary has expanded confidential services for survivors and provides a dedicated space on campus staffed by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County. The grant also funds an expanded program of awareness, prevention, and bystander intervention training for all Centenary students. "Cyclone Strong has made an important impact on our campus," said Kerry Mullins, vice president of student life and dean of students.



Centenary University marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a Twilight Remembrance Ceremony on the front lawn of the Edward W. Seay Administration Building. University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., who is a retired U.S. Army veteran, and Associate Professor of History Noah Haiduc-Dale, Ph.D., delivered remarks.

The University also hosted "September 11th, 2001: The Day That Changed the World," an interactive poster exhibit of archival photographs and images of artifacts, in Taylor Memorial Library. Sponsored by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, the exhibit explored the consequences of terrorism on individual lives and communities at the local, national, and international levels, and encouraged critical thinking about the legacies of 9/11.



King of The Hill

Michael Dowling's career in the equine industry is riding high with the opening of The Hill, a horse farm in the heart of New Jersey's prestigious Essex Hunt country. Located in Far Hills, the facility offers a top equine training program and state-of-the-art systems for both horses and riders. An assistant professor of equine studies at Centenary University, Dowling's latest business venture has already opened doors to Centenary students seeking to broaden their experience in the industry.

Raised in northwestern New Jersey, Dowling grew up around horses as a frequent visitor to his cousin's farm. Dowling joined the Centenary faculty 20 years ago. The Hill represents the merger of Dowling's former business, Windham Hill LLC, which he operated for 30 years, with several partners. In addition to The Hill, Dowling is a co-owner of Monmouth at the Team, the longest continuously running horse show in the United States. This year's event was held at the Centenary University Equestrian Center in August.

"It's a very busy schedule, but I find it very rewarding," he said. "It allows me to give back to our Centenary students and help mentor them on their journey in the equestrian world."

Today, Dowling spends his time teaching and coaching at Centenary, as well as coaching clients at The Hill and in Florida on weekends. At Centenary, he is the co-coach of the University's IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association) team, which has won three national championship titles and a reserve champion title, and has produced three Cacchione Cup champions. "It's a busy schedule, but I find it very rewarding," he said. "It allows me to give back to our Centenary students and help mentor them on their journey in the equestrian world."

Yet, Dowling's biggest impact has been on the professional careers of the University's students and alumni, many of whom have worked at his farms after graduation. Through the years, more than 20 Centenary students have also interned at Dowling's barns in New Jersey and Florida: "These are typically very motivated students who really are looking at getting the most out of their college experience. I am proud to say that most of them have gone on to be successful additions to the equine community."



Gotham City Insights

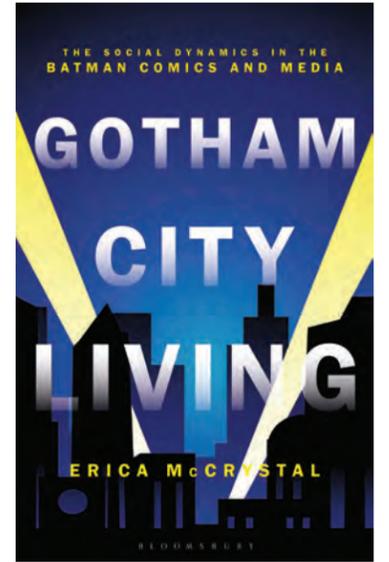


The fictional Gotham City is a window into societal themes for Erica McCrystal, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Centenary University Education and Humanities Department. In her new book, *Gotham City Living: The Social Dynamics in the Batman Comics and the Media*, Dr. McCrystal explores the social, political, and cultural tensions in urban America within the context of Gotham City, hometown of Batman and a host of villains. Through the evolution of the Batman franchise, Dr. McCrystal presents a timeline of social progression and regression in today's urban American Society.

Dr. McCrystal began to take a scholarly approach to the crime genre in graduate school. The recipient of a doctoral degree in English from St. John's University, she focused her dissertation on urban Gothic super villains in Victorian London and Gotham

City. In addition to teaching at Centenary, Dr. McCrystal previously hosted a podcast called "Villains 101."

At Centenary, Dr. McCrystal interweaves pop cultural themes into her education and English courses to inspire thought about cultural, national, and global themes: "I like to look for connections between great, influential works of the 19th century and the popular media of today. The Gothic continues to be popular, and brilliant creators reimagine Gothic settings and villains in fresh ways that keep the genre exciting and relevant."



Media Focus: Mental Health

From the pandemic to the Olympics, the state of the nation's mental health has taken center stage in news reports. Three Centenary University mental health counselors have been tapped by the media to help guide the conversation.

As classrooms reopened to full-time, in-person learning around the nation, Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Work Tara Veerman, Ph.D., and Director of the Counseling Center Mikolaya Nynka, LPC, provided their insights to television and radio reporters on navigating back-to-school stresses in a year framed by pandemic-related issues. Commenting on elementary school children returning to classrooms, Dr. Veerman told WFMZ-TV reporter Jack Reinhard '19, "With so many unknowns still unfolding, this is a situation that requires leading with empathy. Compassion and flexibility are what will get kids and teachers through this transitional period. In the end, I do believe that some good will come of what we're learning."

Nynka emphasized that on college campuses, there are still pandemic-related uncertainties about how the rest of the academic year will unfold. That will require approaching others with patience and understanding: "We need to understand that even the people at the top don't have all the answers. We're all in this gray space together and we're taking on a lot. So, we need to have compassion for ourselves and others."

Earlier in the year, Keith Morgen, Ph.D., provided his expertise for a healthline.com story exploring anxiety and the return to post-pandemic life. Dr. Morgen, who also recently lead the University's initiative to earn the Addiction Professionals Certification Board of New Jersey approved educational provider status for the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling—Addictions Track Program, noted, "The constant thoughts about COVID-19 are like a churning engine for anxiety...Now, the world is saying, 'Come back out again,' and people have to be in public with new situations and people. It's an anxiety they haven't experienced in a while."



Tara Veerman, Ph.D.



Mikolaya Nynka, LPC

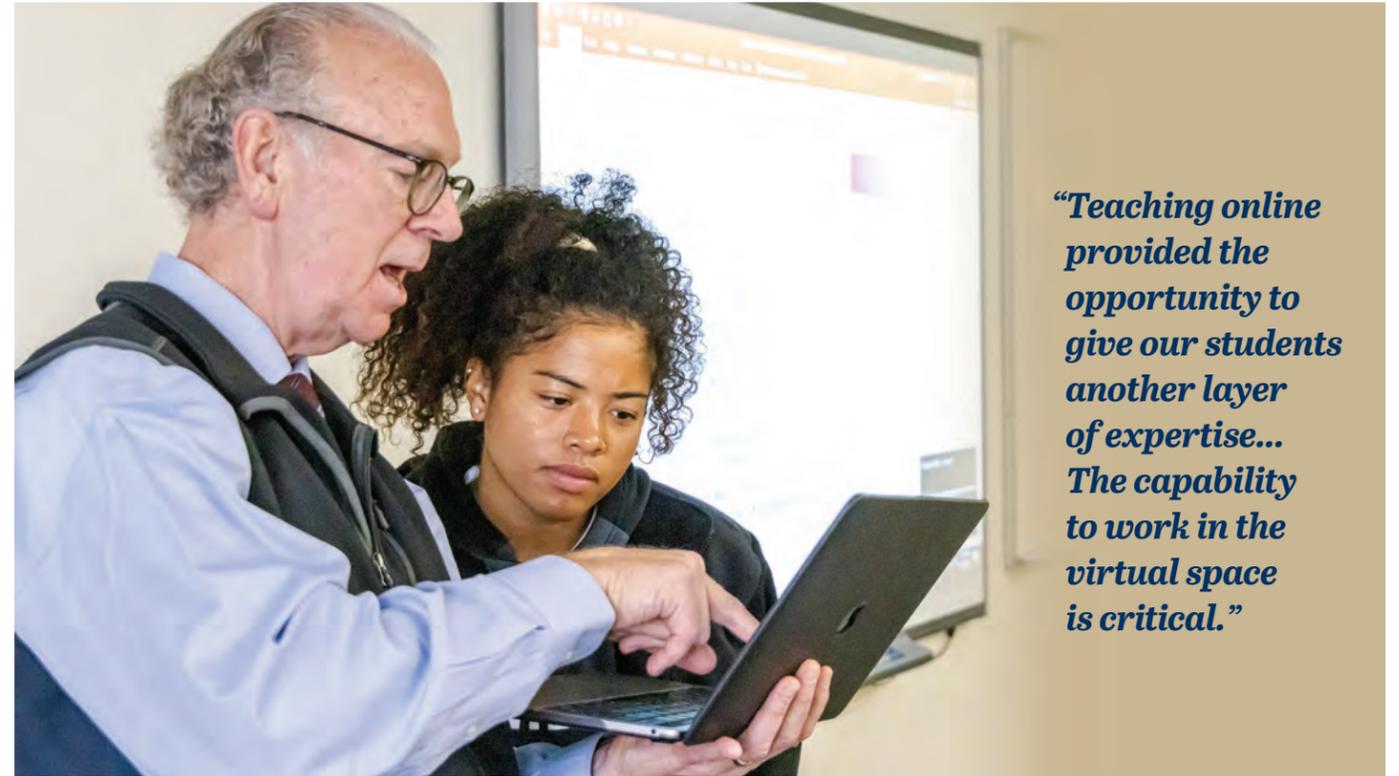


Keith Morgen, Ph.D., LPC, ACS

We Mean Business



Enactus team members Ashley Wrede '23, left, and Jenna Glinko '23



“Teaching online provided the opportunity to give our students another layer of expertise... The capability to work in the virtual space is critical.”

Associate Professor of Business Dana Benbow and Chelsea Estacio '23

A sea change is sweeping through the economy, with far-reaching implications for businesses, employees, and consumers. As the fallout from the pandemic continues, the pace of retirements has accelerated and companies are reevaluating all aspects of commerce, from manufacturing and distribution to compensation and the workplace experience.

“The pandemic has changed the way we do business,” explains Cheryl Veronda, dean of the Centenary University Business, Media, and Writing Department and professor of business. “The way we interact, attend meetings, and apply for jobs will never be the same. As the world becomes more virtual and data-driven, it’s more imperative to teach our students how to function—and succeed—in a disruptive environment.”

The evolution of the business world began long before the pandemic. Driven by advances in technology, the economy has become increasingly more global and interdependent. That requires employees who are adept at critical thinking, communication, and teamwork across cultural boundaries. Those skills have been both tested and strengthened over the past 18 months as many businesses transitioned to fully virtual operations, says Dana Benbow, associate professor of business and chair of the Curriculum Committee. “While it was challenging, teaching online provided the opportunity to give our students another layer of expertise,” he notes. “In today’s corporate environment, you may be doing a presentation with some team members in person and some online. That’s something my students are practicing in class right now. The capability to work in the virtual space has become critical.”

At Centenary, the study of business begins with a 14-course business core, providing broad foundational knowledge applicable to any career. Then, students choose at least one concentration—although many expand their skill set with two, or even three, concentrations. The University offers a wide range of new business concentrations, such as data analytics, supply chain management, project management, and sustainable practices. Many students also choose concentrations in social media marketing, sports and entertainment management, marketing, management, and accounting. Students also have the flexibility to add second majors, as well as minors including professional writing and communications or film.

The specialized training inherent in concentrations gives Centenary graduates an edge in the job market, according to Veronda: “Centenary graduates have a much better value proposition when they’re interviewing in the marketplace because they’re so well rounded. Having a breadth of knowledge is essential in the workforce today, and makes the resumes of our graduates more robust. It’s one of the things that sets Centenary apart.”

One of those graduates is Kyle Malavasi '14, who has parlayed his Centenary education into a successful career as a wealth management adviser for Main Street Wealth Management in Bedminster, NJ. The business administration major, who also spent several years with Merrill Lynch, gained a background in finance and psychology at Centenary. He recalls, “I really thought I’d go into sports management, but overlapping my schedule with economics



Andrew Marchese '22 and Christine Manser '22

and psychology was very helpful. Surprisingly, psychology is extremely relevant to what I do today. As a result, I'm able to make an impact on people's everyday lives."

The University's 4+1 BS/MBA, as well as the 150-credit accounting and finance degree, also provide opportunities for qualified business students to gain advanced training. Both programs save students time and money: The 150-credit accounting and finance degree can be earned in just four years, while the 4+1 BS/MBA is completed in five years.

Beginning junior year, motivated business majors with a GPA of 3.3 or higher can enroll in the 4+1 BS/MBA to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business and a Master of Business Administration in five years. The 150-credit accounting and finance degree qualifies Centenary students to sit for the CPA (certified public accounting) exam right after graduation. "A lot of auditing firms won't hire graduates who don't yet have the 150 credits required to take the exam because they're not licensed or billable yet," Benbow explains. "So, from a pure business standpoint, Centenary accounting students graduate with an advantage."

A cornerstone of Centenary's Business Department is the strong link between theory and real-world practice. Benbow remembers discussing potential supply chain management issues in an Organizational Management class in February 2020—almost a month before the US went into COVID-19 lockdown. "We talked about how the pandemic, which was unfolding in China and Europe, could impact the global supply chain and things you could plan in advance to manage it," Benbow explains. "This is a topic our country and the world are facing right now."

Simulations also allow students to test their skills. Benbow uses an operations management game that places students



Darnel Burnette '22

in positions of authority, such as CEO and CFO, for fictional businesses, which then compete against each other. A capstone course taught by Barbara Jayne Lewthwaite, Ed.D., '96 HA, professor of business and president *emerita*, employs a more complex simulation: Students run a fictional company for eight quarters, culminating in a formal presentation of their results to a corporate board comprised largely of Centenary business alumni. Last year, one of her teams performed in the top 10 percent worldwide in the simulation.

Through Enactus, formerly known as SIFE, the University's competitive business team directed by Linda Poisseroux, associate professor of business, students also gain practical experience creating and marketing products, and assisting local businesses. In addition, they earn national and international recognition when they present their projects at annual competitions. "Our Enactus team wins, but more importantly, our students get the attention of employers," says Veronda, a former Enactus director who recounted several instances of Enactus presentations resulting in on-the-spot job offers. "It's happened over and over—Centenary students have impressive skills that make them very employable."

The deep expertise of Centenary's faculty, as well as the University's Business Advisory Board, enriches Centenary's curriculum and provides extraordinary opportunities for Centenary students. For instance, Veronda spent more than 12 years as a corporate brand manager and marketing director, while Benbow's career includes executive roles in risk management, finance, product development, operations management, and business unit leadership. David Perricone, associate professor of sports and entertainment management, has worked with leading sports franchises,



Jenna Glinko '23 and Josh Nicol '22

opening the door for Centenary students to work for teams in the NFL, NHL, NBA, and MLB. Business Department adjuncts are also all top-tier professionals, Veronda adds.

The Business Advisory Board, comprised of alumni and professionals representing various industries, provides insights on current and projected market trends to help inform new academic programs and concentrations. For instance, the University launched a concentration in data analytics in response to strong market demand identified by faculty and advisory board members. The University is also fortunate to have faculty with strong skills in these areas, including Linda Ritchie and David Buhanan, Ph.D., each of whom is an assistant professor of mathematics. Through a partnership with the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium (LCMC), Centenary has also tapped the expertise of more than 70 educational institutions to bring new programs, such as supply chain management, certified financial planning, project management, and computer science, to Centenary.

Business and accounting major Darnel Burnette '22 is banking on his Centenary education paying off in a great job after graduation. A member of the Honors Program, he's certainly put in the work. Sometimes taking up to 22 credits a semester, Burnette is completing double majors in finance and the 150-credit accounting program. He juggles intensive coursework with leadership activities, such as serving as Student Government Association president and Enactus team member. The first-generation college student says, "The education that Centenary offers is really broad. I've taken courses in marketing, accounting, finance, and more. Within accounting, I've studied real estate, taxation, and auditing. I feel like that will give me more versatility in the future."



Dean of the Business, Media and Writing Department Cheryl Veronda



Strategic Growth

Centenary University has added new academic programs in the health sciences over the past three years in response to a growing need in the marketplace for trained professionals

in these fields. The latest addition: A new Bachelor of Science in Public Health, which launched this semester.

Developed through the University's partnership with the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium (LCMC), the degree prepares students to work in a wide variety of healthcare settings, including as community health educators, epidemiologists, occupational health and safety practitioners, and environmental health technicians. In addition to public health, the University's offerings now include bachelor's degrees in health science, exercise science, and medical laboratory science.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharpened the focus on the critical need for well-trained individuals in health-related fields, according to Craig Fuller, Ph.D., who directs Centenary's new public health program. An assistant professor of health sciences at Centenary, Dr. Fuller noted that today's healthcare practitioners have been confronted with a variety of issues, including vaccine hesitancy and inequities in healthcare: "As a result of the pandemic, we've witnessed firsthand the devastating impact these and other issues have on the fight against COVID-19. Now, more than ever, we need well-trained professionals with strong analytical skills who can think critically and react with empathy to the emerging healthcare needs faced by our nation and the world."

Q & A

with **Stephen Davis**
Associate Professor of Theatre Arts



Tell us about yourself.

My family's experience has been shaped by great opportunity and deep racism. My father was the first in his family to attend college, and went on to earn a Ph.D. That educational opportunity reshaped our entire family. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio, where he was a tenured English professor at Ohio State University. His career indirectly influenced my decision to study theatre, and eventually, to also become a college professor.

On my mother's side, I'm Chinese American and Czechoslovakian American. My family experienced tremendous racism when they came to this country. My great-grandmother was sold from China for 300 silver pieces at age 6. At age 13, she was given up in an arranged marriage to a gentleman who worked the railroads. My great-grandparents were so scarred by the racial tensions in the early 20th century United States that they pushed their language and culture aside. And so my mother, and later my brother and I, were cut off from an important piece of our heritage.

Why theatre?

I grew up listening to my father quote Shakespeare around the house. The iambic pentameter and the

way the rhythms follow the natural rhythm of your heartbeat shaped who I am. As a child, I had undiagnosed dyslexia and difficulties with spelling and reading comprehension. Theatre is meant to be performed, not read, and I could memorize lines really well. So when a weeklong Shakespeare residency came to my school in sixth grade, I was cast as Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We performed at a nursing home; a woman told me it was the first time her husband had smiled in two years. That experience changed me.

Is Shakespeare relevant today?

Of course—even for elementary school kids. I've presented Shakespeare intensives at several elementary schools, including most recently in Blairstown, NJ. Here's the thing about kids: No one has told them yet that they can't understand Shakespeare. Because they understand music, they understand the musicality of the script. During these residencies, we take risks, make mistakes, and relish in our mistakes. Stepping out of our comfort zone is the way we grow. So, I get to plant the first seed and allow kids to experience and develop a passion for Shakespeare.

In one of our first residencies, the teachers weren't sure

if a student with dyslexia could handle a role in the cast. In him, I saw myself as a young boy and really pushed for him to get the part. And guess what? He was the first kid off the book, memorizing all of his lines, and he really excelled. For me, paying it forward like that was awesome.

What's your role with the EOP?

Working with Centenary's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is one of my most inspiring roles at the University. Our EOP students are intelligent and highly motivated; the success they've had is astounding. My summer course, which runs for two-and-a-half weeks, is structured around *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, which is all about making the most of the time we have left in this world. My goal is to get students to open up and embrace the realities that have shaped them. They journal and then present their own "last lectures," many of which bring them face-to-face with some of the most difficult moments of their lives. It's so very moving and prepares them to trust that the people here at Centenary want to help them succeed.

How do students make that leap?

The educational process through the years has left some EOP students less willing to trust. The reality is that they face so many more challenges than receiving an education. We have to show them that we're willing to walk the extra mile to support them. Here's what I say: "I'm this red-headed guy and I'm asking you to have a leap of faith with me. I don't know what it is to walk in your shoes, but I have my own ethnic reality. The rest of my story is that I'm dyslexic and my fourth grade teacher said I would amount to nothing. That became the motivation for me to prove her wrong. If someone is trying to hold you back, you need to find your own motivation and prove them wrong."

These students teach me something every single day. In their journals and their last lectures, they're willing to share and expose their hearts with so much courage. This assignment is a very powerful reminder—for all of us—that you can never, ever judge a book by its cover. It's what's inside that matters. When they've taken the time to write what they write and explore what they explore, I cannot be passive about it. They also create time capsules the summer before freshman year that I present to them before commencement. You can just see how much they've grown during their time at Centenary. I'm invested in every single student. It is one of the great joys I've had as an educator.

What's special about Centenary?

My dad was a professor at Ohio State University and had over 150 people in a class. He rarely had a chance to get to know his students. I know every single one of my students. In fact, I've had students write



From left, Malachi Bobien '21, Stephen Davis, and Maxinne Spann '21.

in the middle of a journal assignment, "You're probably not even reading this right now." I circle that thought and reply, "Yes, I am." Since Centenary is a small university, we're able to make the type of difference Randy Pausch was talking about in *The Last Lecture*. Many Centenary students are the first in their family to graduate from college, yet we have graduates who go on to master's programs at Ivy League universities, as well as those who earn MBAs, Ph.D.s, or attend medical school. That is what I love—knowing my students and seeing them succeed. That's what makes Centenary special.

Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Stephen Davis earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of South Carolina. He is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Fast Facts

1. AT HOME IN HACKETTSTOWN

Davis and his wife, Megan Davis, along with their two young children and energetic puppy, Warner, live two blocks from campus.

2. THEATRE BIZ

In his spare time, Davis runs Cause and Fx PC, an educational and production support company that specializes in Shakespeare, theatrical makeup, and stage combat, with Erik Gaden '12.

3. SMART SPORT

Davis keeps Cyclone student-athletes on track academically as the University's faculty athletic representative.

A Hero's Legacy



In 1968, the United States military launched a covert operation high atop a mountain in Laos, near the border of North Vietnam. One of the first to volunteer was Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger, a highly skilled Air Force radar expert. When the site came under fire, CMSgt Etchberger bravely saved the lives of three Americans before being killed.

The details of the mission and CMSgt Etchberger's courage remained classified

for more than two decades. Other than military top brass, only the widows—who had signed nondisclosure agreements—knew the true story. Years later, the story began to take shape as documents became declassified.

“That’s the vision of our foundation and it’s what my father stood for. People talk about courage, integrity, and citizenship, which are great ideals. But life is really about what you actually do with those attributes. The sacrifice Dad made in service to others and his country defines his legacy.”

CMSgt Etchberger was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama in 2010. Two books and a segment of the Netflix documentary, *Medal of Honor*, have brought his story to the public.

To honor his courage and legacy, Centenary University recently announced the naming of its educational partnership with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) for CMSgt Etchberger. The University's partnership through the CCAF will now formally be known as the CMSgt Richard Etchberger Scholars Program, which will include students enrolled at Centenary through the CCAF's General Education Mobile (GEM) Program for associate degree candidates and CCAF's Associate to Bachelor's Cooperative (ABC) Program for those seeking their bachelor's degree. Students—active duty air and space personnel—will

be designated Centenary University Etchberger Scholars. Centenary is the only four-year, independent university in New Jersey accredited through the CCAF to host the GEM program, which is offered virtually. Etchberger Scholars receive significant financial support from the military, as well as academic support from Centenary.

“There are very few Medal of Honor recipients,” said Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who also spent more than eight years as a senior civilian executive with the Air Force, including as vice president of academic affairs at the Air University in Alabama, CCAF's parent organization. Dr. Murphy's wife, Jeanne, is also a retired U.S. Army colonel. “We want to encourage CMSgt Etchberger's devotion to duty and leadership in all of our students, especially those who come from the military. We are not honoring his memory today. We are recognizing his legacy, and we feel that very, very deeply.”

In attendance at the University's announcement were Cory Etchberger, who was just 10 when his father was killed, and his daughter, Madison. Cory Etchberger and his brothers, Richard Etchberger and Steve Wilson, established the CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Foundation to honor their father's legacy and promote leadership and service among young people. On behalf of the foundation, Cory Etchberger presented a portrait of CMSgt Etchberger to be displayed in a place of honor on the Centenary campus.

“I am proud that the Centenary University Etchberger Scholars Program will help to instill the ideals of leadership and service above self,” Cory Etchberger said. “That's the vision of our foundation and it's what my father stood for. People talk about courage, integrity, and citizenship, which are great ideals. But life is really about what you



Above: the Etchberger family at the Medal of Honor ceremony with President Barack Obama. Below: from left, President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., Madison Etchberger, Cory Etchberger, Director of Veteran Services Margie Pavlichko, and Jeanne Murphy.



actually do with those attributes. The sacrifice Dad made in service to others and his country defines his legacy.”

A resident of Hamburg, Pa., CMSgt Etchberger enlisted in the Air Force soon after his graduation from Hamburg High School. Trained in electronics, he was a specialist in radar operations. His technical expertise and leadership abilities led to his selection for a covert CIA and U.S. Air Force mission at a site on a remote mountain in Laos called Lima Site 85.

In the early morning hours of March 11, 1968, the site came under attack from North Vietnamese special forces soldiers who had scaled the surrounding cliffs. By 3 a.m., CMSgt Etchberger and six others were the only surviving Americans out of the original 19. He tended to the wounded, called for air strikes, and fought off the advancing North Vietnamese troops until a rescue helicopter arrived. CMSgt Etchberger then helped load the wounded onto slings to be lifted into the hovering aircraft before coming aboard himself. As the helicopter headed toward an air base in Thailand, an enemy soldier below fired his AK-47 into the underside of the aircraft, fatally wounding CMSgt Etchberger. In recognition of CMSgt Etchberger's heroism, his wife, Catherine, was presented with the Purple Heart and the Air Force Cross, the highest honor bestowed by the Air Force.

Cory Etchberger said his mother, who passed away in

1994, never shared details about his father's death. So, it was a slow process learning the true story, and ultimately, writing the family letter required for a Medal of Honor request. “It was kind of like watching snow melt,” he recalled. “Information started to trickle in. Now, I have Dad's service records. It's interesting—he was originally considered for the Medal of Honor in 1968. But awarding it then would mean the Pentagon would have to divulge the details of the secret mission.”

Forty-two years later, the Etchberger family gathered at the White House in 2010 to receive the well-deserved honor on behalf of CMSgt Etchberger. Reflecting on that day, and the growth of the Etchberger Foundation in the ensuing years, a visibly moved Cory Etchberger said, “That day, we thought it was the end of the honors Dad would receive. But really, it was just the beginning. There have been books and a Netflix documentary sharing his story. We've also visited schools to speak with young people. And now we're here at Centenary, with a university program named in his honor. That makes me so very proud.”

Director of Veteran Services Margie Pavlichko underscored the importance of members of the military to the University's mission: “We are very proud to offer educational opportunities like the Etchberger Scholars Program to those who have served our nation.”

NEW YEAR, NEW CONFERENCE

The start of the fall semester marked the Cyclones' first season in the Atlantic East Conference. Centenary University's athletic teams previously competed in the Colonial States Athletics Conference (CSAC). The move to a new conference supports the University's ongoing initiative to elevate athletics programs and enhance the student-athlete experience.

"Our teams are excited about playing in the Atlantic East Conference," said Travis Spencer, Centenary's Director of Athletics. "Joining the Atlantic East Conference breathes opportunity into our programs and institution. It's a challenging conference, and our student-athletes and coaches are rising to that challenge."

All Centenary University teams are now participating in Atlantic East Conference competition, with the exception of wrestling, a sport not offered by the new conference. However, since the CSAC also doesn't offer wrestling, this move didn't represent a change for the nationally ranked Cyclone wrestling team. In addition, Centenary's field hockey and women's

lacrosse teams will continue to compete in the CSAC for the current academic year before transitioning to the Atlantic East Conference beginning in 2022-2023. Centenary will continue to compete as an NCAA DIII school.

Centenary President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., hailed the move as an opportunity to grow Cyclone athletics: "Through this transfer to the Atlantic East Conference, we will increase recognition of the Cyclone brand and expand our recruiting potential along the eastern seaboard. We're excited for this new chapter of competition, which is already enhancing the experience of our student-athletes."



Academic All-Stars

Cyclones are champions on and off the field. The most recent proof: Academic accolades garnered by the men's basketball and baseball teams.

The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) named four Cyclone student-athletes—Bryce Falk '22, Tyler White '22, Billy Veras '22, and Mahir Yilmaz '23—to its 2020-21 Honors Court. The organization also announced that Centenary's men's basketball team received the academic excellence award for achieving a cumulative 3.0 GPA for the first time in program history. The team had seven players with a 3.5 GPA for the spring semester and five players with a 3.4 cumulative GPA or higher. "I am so proud of the academic successes our program has achieved," said Head Coach Jason Geleski '21. "We have fostered an academics-focused culture here and the results are a testament to what we are constructing."

Meanwhile, the Centenary baseball team was named a recipient of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award. The Cyclones received the award for the first time in program history, posting a 3.219 team cumulative GPA for the year. "Balancing academic and athletic pursuits is fundamental to the student-athlete experience," said Head Coach Scott Kushner. "I'm proud of our team for proving year after year that it's possible to thrive in both of these areas. This is a great honor for our program."

Changemaker



The SPRTER App has recognized Cyclone Head Wrestling Coach John Garriques with its Catalyst Award, presented to individuals who take the initiative to create change. The award is part of the College Impact Awards program, which recognizes SPRTERS (student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and sports business professors and students) who have displayed acts of selflessness.

Garriques—who has coached numerous All-Americans at Centenary—places equal weight on athletic excellence and community service among his team members. Last year, they volunteered for a Main Street beautification project and participated in delivering goods to Trinity Church. It's also been a long-standing tradition for Centenary wrestlers to help shovel snow from the campus and throughout the community. Garriques said, "I am humbled that one of my alumni took the time to nominate me for this award. But truly, this award is shared amongst all my current and former wrestlers."



The Cyclones Are Back!
 Cyclone fall sports returned this fall after a year's hiatus from competition. While the pandemic prevented Centenary University's fall student-athletes from competing last year, they kept their skills sharp working out with coaches and teammates in preparation for the new season. This fall saw a return to action for men's and women's soccer and cross country, as well as field hockey. This winter, look for men's and women's basketball, along with wrestling. With our teams back on the fields and fans in the stands, the campus is once again infused with Cyclone spirit!

Photos: Jenna Glinko '23

Second Chance

To see the difference **Abby Revoir '11** has made in the world, just take a peek into the stalls of her barn at Star Hollow Stables in Dennis Township, NJ. While many of the horses belong to her riding students, a host of others are rescues saved from slaughter or difficult living conditions.

Since 2016, Revoir has run Starfish Equine Rescue, with the mission of saving as many horses, ponies, and donkeys as possible.

The effort began soon after she graduated from Centenary University with a Bachelor of Science in Equine Studies. Since many of the horses have been neglected, the nonprofit relies on donors to provide funding for medical care and living expenses. The goal: To retrain the animals in preparation for adoption.

The South Jersey native began with just one rescue horse, she told *The Press of Atlantic City's* Bill Barlow: "I started rescuing horses one at a time. I didn't have the finances to do more. When I could, I'd save one from slaughter. People think all the time that they can't make a difference...You can't save the world. But if you think that way, you're not going to help anything." For more information go to starfishequinrescue.com.



Let us know what's new!

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

1949

Florence Austerlough Larson
San Diego, CA
Contact Florence:
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Florence Austerlough Larson writes: "I spent three weeks in Maui in July with my son, Wayne, and his wife at a beautiful house my other son bought. There was a lanai on the second floor that overlooked the ocean and we watched beautiful sunsets there. I am going to New Jersey for two weeks to help my sister after she has back surgery. My church has opened up and it was wonderful to see everyone again instead of meeting on Zoom.

"**Carol Brown Robinson** says she has no time to be bored. She walks in the green area of her retirement place of 40 acres, visits with friends and her family, and reads a lot. She was in San Antonio in July and Portland in August. She likes to go on trips.

"I spoke to **Audrey Henn Nawoschik** and her son, Stan. He took her to his beach house in the summer. Her son, Ken, lives with her and they still have four cats. I also talked to **Nancy Morrell McClatchie** and a caregiver, and Nancy is doing okay."

Debra Ettinger Moss writes: "I am still living independently in my senior community. I'm not doing much these days. I listen to audio books and webinars, look up info on the iPad, and play cards once a week in a Zoom room with family in other states. I mysteriously lost my voice three months ago and am going for speech therapy."

Betty Poppele Barrett writes: "It's been a busy year for me so far. My grandson graduated from Centenary in May. I attended the outdoor ceremony and it was good to see so many wonderful changes to the campus. Another grandson got married in upstate New York over Labor Day. Our family rented an Air B&B for the weekend: 10 adults, two great-grandsons ages 4 and 1, and two dogs. It was a beautiful wedding with lots of festivities and excitement. I'm now looking forward to my granddaughter getting married in our church over Thanksgiving weekend. I'm still in my house and think about downsizing, but can never get the time to get started. I look forward to reading about our classmates."

1957

Baynes MacLea Hobbs
San Angelo, TX
Contact Baynes:
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Baynes MacLea Hobbs writes: "Like most of you, Arthur and I have been staying close to home. He is still working in the oil/gas business, so it is hard to go out of town and leave his oil wells. They must be checked every day no matter what—good help is hard to find. So far, we have been well, had our vaccines, and can't really complain. Our grandson just joined the U.S. Marine Corps, so our plans included going to San Diego for his boot camp graduation in October. Since Arthur is a retired Marine, he could hardly wait to go. We will be visiting our daughter and son-in-law, who live in Las Vegas."

Gail Blank McNally writes: "I have spent lots of afternoons at the pool, which is just great for the body—no that I have ventured too far, but I've had visitors galore, which is just wonderful. Family and friends have come and they're never empty handed, so JJ and I are quite spoiled.

"COVID-19, I know, has cramped the styles of so many of us. So, I'm really hoping none of you have had to cancel travels. I've been eyeing the American Cruise Line, which sees the United States on lovely small ships. Itineraries include up and down the Mississippi, the East Coast, and the Ohio and Columbia rivers. But my balance stinks, so I have to wait. Because of that, I now have an aide from Malaga, a tiny African country east of South Africa. She cooks and cleans and makes our breakfast. In that regard, life is good. Still, health is always the pooh-pooh of the party kids. Gratefully, my darling JJ recently turned 94 and yet, seems younger than I. I certainly did not get his genes. My children and grandchildren are all well and the kids travel a lot. So, they're seeing this grand old world.

"I hear from **Nancy Ott Heyniger**, as she lives near my town, Sea Girt, NJ. **Alice Tomlin Burgess** and I chat and email, and I hear from **Mally Holmes Wilkinson** that she will move into a nifty retirement community. I send my love to all my classmates!"

Mary Gail Cassett Dalton writes: "We summered in St. Louis and saw our children, grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The pandemic has kept us from traveling to see anyone. Our plans included returning

to our condo in Miami Beach at the end of August. We live there now and I'm still playing golf and taking theater class via Zoom. Anyone who may be interested in reading and discussing plays can join the fun."

Jane Ellicott Flattery writes: "No earth-shattering news from me. I spent nine weeks in a boot, but my ankle is repaired. I am back to playing golf and staying in touch with friends."

Pat Weigand Fairchild writes: "This was a busy year for me. In late June, I sold my home of 34 years and downsized to a Gemini Twin home in Sun City, Ariz. Without even getting settled there, I scurried to my place in Munds Park, Ariz, where it's usually 30 degrees cooler. I planned to stay there until mid-October, then return to the valley. I will probably eventually move to Burleson, Texas, to my youngest daughter's home. But not yet—I'm still independent and kicking."

1959

Ann Hufnagel Rafferty
Owls Head, ME
Contact Ann:
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Ann Hufnagel Rafferty writes: "It has been a busy time all over and I am glad to be living in Maine so some of my kids and grandkids can drive up and visit me. Some of my volunteer jobs have been shut down, but are getting back, even though we are still on Zoom meetings for church and the library. Our Owls Head Historical Society is back in real life and we are trying to build a building for it. As long as all stay healthy, we have to do it this way for a while. I loved attending Centenary when it was Centenary Junior College and I still have some friends from there; I see one every summer up here."

1961

Joyce Fierro Velzy
Port St. Lucie, FL
Contact Joyce:
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Joyce Fierro Velzy writes: "I had a lovely chat with **Molly Power Balzer** when she called to wish me a happy 80th in August for my birthday. Molly and I hardly knew each other at Centenary, but we're making up for lost time now. Molly says: 'I guess all of the Class of '61 are octogenarians now, some more active than others. A couple of observances: my 5 o'clock cocktail hours start at 4 o'clock now and relishing my solitude is a thing of the past. George and I are planning our annual trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, this fall.'

"Some of us attended our virtual 60th Reunion. It was good to 'see' **Janice**

Auer Scrabis, Mary Ann Selvaggio, Judie Van Wattering Whitmore, June Adams Salaun, and Sally Murphy Albano. Ladies, you all looked great!

"I am sad to report that **Mary Ellen 'Honey' Williams Fisher** passed away on Sept. 19. Honey maintained close friendships with a group of Centenary classmates throughout the years. Her vibrant personality and astute mind will always be remembered and deeply missed."

Ann Yeatman McAbee writes: "My husband, Jim, and I are now living at a retirement community, Garden Spot Village in Lancaster County in New Holland, Penn. My daughter calls it a resort. We've been here 11 years, having lived in South Carolina for 17 years after Jim retired. We have two children and six grandchildren and, as of the time you're reading this, one of our granddaughters, Rachel, will have been married. It's very exciting. Jim and I are well and still very active, playing golf when it's not raining or too cold, volunteering, and participating in hobbies. We feel very blessed to be in such good shape for the shape we're in. Would love to hear from anyone who comes to Lancaster County. It's a beautiful place in the country and the Amish are wonderful. We love everything about where we are, one being all the fresh produce in the summer and all the beautiful flowers. Also, if any of our classmates has information about my roommate, **Sharon Scott Higdon**, I would be so grateful to have it. I've tried everything I can think of to find her and have had no luck."

Marilyn "Micki" Parsons Wortman writes: "My husband and I are still happily ensconced on Martha's Vineyard. It was an incredibly safe place to be during COVID. We did venture out to see our kids and nine grandchildren. We also took a two-week vacation on Sanibel Island, Fla, last March. Hopefully, we will be there again this coming March. I celebrated my 80th birthday with a surprise from our whole family. Fifteen members of the family walked in while I cried—so surprised! We hadn't all been together for almost two years. I love my kids. I know most of the class is now 80 and hopefully aging well. I took up pickleball. Boy, is that fun. It's guaranteed to keep you moving."

June Adams Salaun writes: "Nothing much new, but I know that now most of us have turned 80 and are struggling with one problem after another. It's not fun, but I am still playing tennis and golf several times a week. I have not been married (three times!) for a long time, so no one is asking what's for dinner."

News from **Ann Watson Mangels**: "Bill and I moved to our new home last December. After 50 years in our previous house, we downsized and

are now living in a new building at a wonderful retirement community, Broadmead, in Cockeysville, Md. It's about 15 miles from our old neighborhood and five minutes from our younger son and his family. We've never lived in new construction before and it's delightful to have picked out our wall colors, carpets, and flooring, as well as having a choice of styles. We're very happy and enjoy seeing old friends, as well as meeting new ones. Between last Christmas and New Year's, I fell and broke my left ankle. That encouraged me to have a knee replacement, which I also needed. Now, I am almost finished with my physical therapy. It's been a good recuperation, so much so that I am going to talk to my orthopedist about planning for another new knee. We haven't done any traveling for a long time (like everyone else), but hope to begin again next year.

"As I mentioned, our son, Jim, lives nearby with his wife and 14-year-old daughter, Rosa, a freshman at Friends School in Baltimore. The rest of the family is in various areas of Alabama. We now have three great-grandkids living near Mobile with our grandson, Jack, and his wife. John's family moved from Birmingham, Ala, to Helena and welcome their two college sons for dinner whenever possible. We're looking forward to seeing them all. Life has changed for us, but we are well and enjoy a slower lifestyle. Although we have moved, we still attend the same church, volunteer as we have in the past, and enjoy a restful atmosphere. Our porch is colorful with flowers and Bill has a nice garden patch, where he planted tomatoes and beautiful sunflowers. I hope all our classmates are well and have gotten through the COVID-19 virus with their health in good order."

Nancy Heimert Zabka writes: "This was the second summer of drought in northern California. There were fire evacuation alerts and smoke-filled air here, but our home has been full of houseguests of all ages. I even went river rafting with my son and grandchildren. I'm preparing now for a quick trip to Florida to visit my sister and I'm hoping to spend Christmas again in Tennessee. I had a Pfizer booster with no problems. September was also start-up time for church Bible studies and life groups. As much as possible, I'm not letting COVID run my life."

Jean Wisdom Weaver and her sister, **Judy Wisdom Quinn**, met in Stone Harbor, NJ, for a short stay recently. Jean writes: "Our grandchildren and (in my case) great-grandchildren congregate there each summer for a week's fun at the beach. Judy and I have a long history of spending summers there, even before college, working as waitresses. Our other



Fond Memories

As a Centenary student, **Laura Cullen Stephan '40** experienced some of the biggest cultural moments of her time. When the first television arrived on campus, she and other students were invited to the President's House to watch. The late **Bette Cooper '40**—the famous Miss America who briefly disappeared before eschewing the notoriety of the crown—was a classmate. Later, Stephan's secretarial science degree was put to good use with the U.S. War Department during World War II.

After the war Stephan married, and is now the matriarch of a large family comprised of her three children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After attending her 80th college reunion this year via Zoom, the 99-year-old Stephan recalled the fun of being a Centenary student of the late 1930s: "One of my friends who lived in Hackettstown could always rustle up some boys to go out with us. But we always made it back in time for curfew."

sister, **Heather Wisdom Curry '63**, also waitressed there. What a life we had—great memories.”

Gayle Sickinger Maffeo writes: “Fortunately, my family and close friends have remained well during these difficult times. Our social lives have been mostly quiet. It seemed like a good time to reach out and check in with Centenary friends. I enjoyed a wonderful catch-up conversation with **Bunny Illis Rogers**, who lives about an hour outside of Los Angeles in Camarillo. She is well and enjoying her puppy, Shadow. It is interesting to note that she rescued her puppy from a golf friend of mine, who also happens to be a Centenary graduate, **Nancy Hanak Sarnoff '57**. **Sally Lovell Brainard** and I continue our long friendship. She is safe and sound in Rhode Island. It is difficult to keep up with her, as she has moved more than anyone I know. She keeps adding grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As for me, I spend most of my time traveling back and forth between Los Angeles and Wilmington, NC, with my dear partner, Ken Anderson. We have been together now for over 12 years. We spend three months in Indian Wells, Calif, playing lots of golf and hosting dear friends from both coasts, plus our wonderful families. Ken and I took them all to Hawaii in June. It was a fantastic adventure for all 11 of us. I hope this finds all of our classmates well and happy.”

1963

Ellen Feincke Whitaker
Manlius, NY
Contact Ellen:
alumni@centenaryuniversity.edu

Nancy Frost Bowman writes, “I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts, so felt right at home attending Centenary. I chose Centenary because my parents and I felt that I should begin my education at a two-year college before transferring on, and Centenary was considered one of the best. Before enrolling, I visited the campus and remember telling my mom the last

thing I wanted was to be assigned to one of the two big six rooms (each consisting of three bunk beds for six students). Low and behold, upon arrival I found out that I had, in fact, been assigned to one and had five roommates. It was a rocky start, but one of the other roommates, **Sally Shurter Wyld**, and I eventually were able to transfer to a double room in the dorm.

“While at Centenary, I was active in swimming and volleyball. My love of sports has remained throughout my life, and I am still an avid swimmer and golfer. When I retired, fellow employees asked what I was going to do in my retirement, and I replied ‘Become a jock!’ The love of sports runs in my family and all are active in various sports. One of my granddaughters is presently captain of the women’s swim team at Yale University.

“While at Centenary, I attended Career Day. I was very impressed with the representative from Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston and decided to attend after graduation from Centenary. It was the first time I had lived in a city environment and I loved it. I landed my first job with the dean of men at Northeastern University, where I met my husband, Jim, who was a student there at the time.

“After working at Northeastern for a while, a friend and I decided to travel across the United States and Mexico. At the time, Greyhound offered a special: For \$99, you could travel to any Greyhound destination and stop in as many places as you wanted. Along the way, we stayed in inexpensive motels and with friends and family to keep expenses down. It was a trip I will never forget.

“After Jim and I were married in 1967, we traveled through Europe before Jim’s job took us to Minnesota, California, and New Jersey, raising two children, Scott and Jamie, along the way. We finally settled back in Massachusetts, where I got a job at Wellesley College as the administrative assistant in the Art Department. The college allowed both Jim and me to audit classes

and enjoy the nine-hole golf course, which continued into retirement.

“For the past 15 years, Jim and I have been spending time during the winter in Naples, Fla, and while there, we get together with fellow classmate **Karen Vanderbeck Fox** and her husband. Jim and I continue to enjoy retirement, and especially following our five grandchildren and all of their activities.”

1983

Daria Kelly Uhlig recently published an article, “How To Buy Land: Your Guide to Investing,” on GoBankingRates.com. She is a personal finance, real estate, and travel writer and editor whose work has been published on The Motley Fool, MSN, AOL, yahoo! finance, CNBC, and *USA Today*.

1995

Majida Kassis Souri recently visited campus with her daughters, Natalia (left) and Sereen (right).



2004

Lauren Turiello '04/06 is president and co-founder of The Social Scene Club, an organization for adults with special needs. Based in Lyndhurst, NJ, the club offers late day and early evening activities for members to socialize, exercise, and reinforce the skills they learn daily in a safe and comfortable space with their friends and peers. Lauren earned a Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration from Centenary University.

2006

Noreen Matias '06/18 was named the supervisor of curriculum, instruction, and intervention at Warren County Vocational Technical School.

Yolanda Sheffield Williams has been appointed program manager for the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University. She currently serves as second vice president of the Centenary University Alumni Association Executive Board.

2007

Alyce Zabawa and Kaitlyn (Lien) Engisch '08 work with Ma Deuce Deuce, a nonprofit that helps veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention. The organization held a walk to raise funds and awareness on Oct. 2 at the Manasquan Reservoir in Monmouth County, NJ.

2012

Cara Davis '12 and Michael Kessler '13 were recently married at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Maryland. Michael is a former Cyclone assistant wrestling coach. A host of Centenary alumni attended the wedding, including **Jon Stillo '11, Cory Vernon '14, Owen Vernon '14, and Craig Montgomery '14**, as well as Cyclone Head Wrestling Coach John Garriques, who presented the couple with Centenary t-shirts with the wrestling program’s motto, “Live the Good Life.”



Named to Centenary University Board of Trustees

Nine outstanding business leaders have been named to four-year terms on the Centenary University Board of Trustees, Board Chair **Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97** announced. As the governing body of Centenary, the board is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the University. The new trustees are:

1. Dale G. Caldwell, Ed.D., executive director of the Rothman Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Silberman College of Business at Fairleigh Dickinson University and CEO of the coaching, consulting, and training firm Strategic Influence, LLC
2. Joyce M. Hansen, vice president, microbiological quality and sterility assurance, for Johnson & Johnson
3. John Johnson, respected professional in the retail automotive sector, founding and holding leadership roles at several dealerships in northwestern New Jersey, as well as an insurance firm
4. Lynn Moran '88, CEO of Arizona Coaching and Consulting and Sonoran Life Transition and Performance Coaching, owner of Sonoran Gift, and former president of Ethel M® Chocolates
5. Darlene Panzitta, president and founder of DSP Clinical Research, LLC, a leading contract research organization (CRO) specializing in the management and execution of women’s health and infertility clinical studies for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and device companies
6. Esther A. Poulsen, founder and CEO of Raare Solutions LLC, an award-winning leader in CRM and marketing operations for the premium and luxury automotive industry, including brands such as BMW North America, Rolls Royce Motor Cars NA, Mini USA, and Ferrari North America
7. Sunita A. Pradhan, vice president customer success, hospitals & health systems, for ELLKAY, LLC, ensuring growth in direct-to-hospital sales and vendor sales channels for data archiving and data migration services
8. Wendy E. Ross, D.V.M., founder, CEO, and small animal surgeon at Crown Veterinary Specialists & Associates in Lebanon, NJ, and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons
9. Vicki S. Sylvain, family and community engagement liaison with the Westbury Union Free School District in Westbury, NY, and a corporate and community instructor at the Center for Workforce Development at Nassau Community College



Linda Mueller Campbell '70 and Sheila Mueller Weiss '66

Family Reunion

A youth baseball game on campus last summer turned into an impromptu Centenary University reunion last summer for sisters who are graduates.

Sheila Mueller Weiss '66 and Linda Mueller Campbell '70 were in attendance at the game to see their great-nephew play. Their sister, **Karen Mueller Barth '63**, is also a Centenary graduate. Sheila and Linda also took the opportunity to tour the University’s campus and find their names on the commencement plaques on display in the Edward W. Seay Administration Building. Each sister earned an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Centenary.

President’s Advisory Council (PAC)

Erica Hontz Hoffman '83, Chair
Diane Bartone-Sarro '86
Ellen Baars Bank '93
Nancy Keely Bell '61
Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Claire Couch Bosee '54
Brenda Bailey Carter '60
Lucinda Thomas Embersits '59
Dr. Christine Siciliano Floether '87
Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97
Millie Hahn '03
Maria Novotna Maier '06

Linda Dey McDonald '62
Gail Blank Dawson McNally '57
Arden Davis Melick '60/01 HA †
Roberta Fiske Mildenerger '67
Marion Grafton Moates '57
Angela Rodriguez Moore '90
Lynn Moran '88
Jaime Ponce '05
Susan Gordon Posner '58
C. Joy Riddell '58
Joanne Risko '97
Suzanne Wallbank Rowland '57

Arlene Shorter Young, Ed.D. '96/99
Doll Spach Siegel '59
Janet Kipp Tribus '62
Kathleen Lascky Turner '70
Gail Bergenback Vigna '57
Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62
Bruce Murphy Ed.D.
Karen DiMaria

† Deceased

Centenary University Board of Trustees

Officers

Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97
Chair
Michael T. Catapano '92
Vice Chair
Audrey R. Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Secretary
David W. Johnson
Treasurer
Lester Aron
Dale G. Caldwell
Denise M. DiGiacomo Blasevick '90
David D. Dallas
Joyce M. Hansen
John Johnson
Muriel F. Millman
Lynn Moran '88
Raymond Nisioviccia
Darlene Panzitta
Esther Poulsen
Sunita A. Pradhan
Wendy E. Ross, D.V.M.
Alden Siegel '14 HA
Vicki S. Sylvain
Linda Van Winkle Watkins '62
Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06
Alumni Representative
Edward Yaw, Ed.D.
Jill Kracov Zinckgraf, Ed.D.
Trustees Emeritus
Wolfgang Gstattenbauer '84/13 HA
Chairman Emeritus
Arden Davis Melick '60/01 HA †
Chair Emerita

Alumni Association Executive Board

Carol Allen '72/74
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
Kyle Malavasi '14
Treasurer
Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks '04/06
Past President
Audrey R. Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78
Nominating Committee Chairperson
Karen DiMaria
University Advancement

Members-at-large:

Angie Desai '07
Virginia George Hook '44
Sandile C. Manzini '11
Angela Rodriguez Moore '90
Devon Paffendorf '10/11
Vita Romanelli-Young '78/80
Bryan Watkinson '07
Brooke A. Smith Westenberger '13

† Deceased

2013

Brooke A. Smith Westenberger and her husband, Kyle, are proud to announce the birth of their son in June. Brooke is a member of the Centenary University Alumni Association Executive Board.

2014

Centenary wrestling alumni **Brian Grise '14** and Ken Jacoby met up recently during the Police Unity Tour, a 300-mile bicycle ride from New Jersey to Washington, DC, to raise public awareness about law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Brian is a NJ Transit police officer, while Ken is a police officer in Camden, NJ.



Michael Nicosia, Ed.D., '14/21 was recently named superintendent of the Bloomingdale school district.

2015

Alex Reeves is the new head wrestling coach at Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester. He said of his new role, "I feel like my overall experience as a college wrestler at Centenary has played a big role in my preparation for taking on this new position as head coach, mainly because I got to experience firsthand what it took to be a top 10 program when we placed third in the country. I plan on taking all my lessons from my college wrestling experiences and sharing them to my guys, with faith that it helps them like it helped me." Alex is the second Cyclone alumnus currently coaching a collegiate wrestling program, joining **Chris Burdge '15**, who is head wrestling coach at Sussex County Community College.



2016

Corinne Giaimo is a reading specialist in the Hackettstown school district.

Silver Medalist



Jordan Juliano '19 represented the United States at the 2021 Pan-American World SAMBO Combat Championships in Colombia last July. Juliano upset the top seed to place second in the international competition. SAMBO is a martial arts and combat sport that incorporates elements of judo, jujutsu, wrestling, and other self-defense systems.

For the Cyclone wrestling team, Jordan was a two-time NCAA regional place winner, regional finalist, and NCAA national qualifier. A psychology major at Centenary, he was also an Academic All-American. Jordan credited Cyclone Head Coach John Garriques with encouraging the work ethic that resulted in his recent second place finish. "I really would not be here if it were not for you putting countless hours in with me," Jordan told Garriques from Colombia. "You have helped me in so many ways and I am forever grateful to call you my coach. Without you, many of us would not be where we are and be as successful."

2017

Ryan St. John was presented with his lab coat during the traditional white coat ceremony at Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine, where he is a first-year medical student.



Priscilla Ortiz was named Teacher of the Year at Hatchery Hill Elementary School in Hackettstown, NJ, for the 2020-2021 school year. She is also an assistant coach of the Centenary University women's lacrosse team.



Jacqueline Epler '17/21 was recently appointed an elementary supervisor for the Randolph Township school district.

2019

Michael Andrade rode this summer in the Princeton Summer Classic, his first

international equestrian competition. He placed first in the USHJA International Hunter Derby on Signorino Family Farm LLC's Romeo.



Jeanene Dutt, Ed.D., published an article entitled "Developing Transformational Teams: The Importance of a Shared Vision and Goals, Collaborative Problem Solving, and Celebrating Success" in *Educational Viewpoints*, the magazine of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association. Principal of North Warren Regional School District in Blairstown, NJ, Dr. Dutt also recently presented on a national podcast. She is an adjunct faculty member at Centenary University.

Gus Protogeropoulos recently graduated from the New Jersey State Police Academy and is now a state trooper. A former Centenary wrestler, he said lessons learned from Head Coach John Garriques helped him through the academy: "The academy was very rough at times. However, Coach Garriques played a big role in my motivation to reach the end. When it seemed like the days were not going to end, I had to remind myself who taught me how to be one tough son of a gun."



2020



Tom Weiler is the new men's basketball coach at Sussex County Community College.

2020

Lauren Steiner co-authored a research paper, "Plant-predominant eating patterns—how effective are they for treating obesity and related cardiometabolic health outcomes?—a systematic review," in the journal, *Nutrition Reviews*. She is a biomedical science student at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Edward J. Lazzara, Ed.D., was recently named the principal of Sparta High School.

2021

Rich Dixon, who recently earned his Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration (MLPA) from Centenary University, reports that his degree is already paying big benefits. Currently a police officer in Evesham Township in Marlton, NJ, he recently interviewed for a director of public safety position at a university. He wrote to MLPA Program Director Jeffrey Carter, Ph.D., "After my interview, the hiring committee commented on how impressed they were with my credentials, preparation, and understanding of leadership. This was a direct result of your program. The entire interview centered on the leadership principles I learned in the MLPA program...I know your program has prepared me for my next step in life, and I am forever grateful for what I have learned!" After careful consideration, Rich has opted to remain in law enforcement to continue serving the citizens of Evesham Township.

Aakash Shah, MD '21 HA, has been appointed a White House Fellow. The prestigious designation embeds professionals from diverse backgrounds for a year as full-time, paid fellows for White House staff, Cabinet secretaries, and other senior government officials. Dr. Shah was the 2021 Centenary University commencement speaker and was presented with a Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.



JENNA O'CONNOR '16 Digital Marketing and Social Media Specialist Centenary University

Jenna O'Connor '16, courtesy of Jessica Sanders Photography



Photos: Jenna O'Connor '16



Jenna O'Connor '16 has synthesized her twin passions—horses and photography—into a successful career at Centenary University. Here are three essentials to know about her:

Early Start

"Growing up, I always had digital cameras and loved taking photos. In high school, I discovered my interest in photography, taking classes and shooting photos for my school's lacrosse and ice hockey teams. I've also been riding for more than 18 years, and I have an artsy side. All of that now comes together in my photography."

Passions Collide

"My favorite thing to shoot is anything horse related. I've had the chance to capture many beautiful moments with kids and their favorite horses. I also love to take horse show photography. That moment of getting the correct shot with horses' ears forward, square knees, the rider holding great equitation, great extension from the trot, dirt coming up from a powerful jump, all in a still shot makes me so excited. My goal is to capture the beauty, strength, grace, or everlasting moments that exist for a split second, but last a lifetime in a photo."

Dream Gig

"I was recently recruited in an effort to help Deo Volente Farms sale horses. The business is owned by former Centenary trustee **Michael Gulotta '09 HA**. I had the opportunity to meet 12 of the babies and take photos, which are now being used in the farm's sale ads. I grew up five minutes away—in fact, I watched the beautiful barn being built as a kid passing by on my way to weekly riding lessons. There was absolutely no shot of me saying no!"



HEARTFELT HONOR

On May 8, Barbara Lynn Lockley '21 proudly walked across the stage at Centenary University's 146th commencement to accept her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Several weeks later, the Centenary community learned the recent graduate had passed away unexpectedly on May 31.

While degrees are conferred at commencement, diplomas are mailed to graduates following the ceremony. Sadly, Barbara passed away before her diploma arrived. On Sept. 24—Barbara's 59th birthday—her family was invited to campus for a special ceremony honoring her academic accomplishment. Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy D'Olivo, Ph.D., said, "It was important to all of us at Centenary, as well as Barbara's family, that we recognize Barbara's academic accomplishment in a meaningful way."



In Memoriam

Filardi Bankhead '53	1/31/2021	Barbara Lynn Lockley '21	5/31/2021
Mary Ellen "Honey" Williams Fisher '61	9/19/2021	Frances Warfield Parrack '63	5/10/2021
Barbara Taylor Forbes '50	6/14/2021	Christina Jacobsen Pohe '62	3/14/2021
The Rev. Dr. Frank L. Fowler III	5/21/2021	Beverly Smith Short '58	4/17/2021
Gary T. Harvey '08	3/26/2021	Ellen Shoemaker Slack '51	4/11/2021
Steven B. Kalafer '09 HA	4/21/2021	Joan Wappler Wassen '51	4/13/2021
Grace Boruch Kendrick '54	6/25/2021	Anita Tuzeneu Woolley '58	8/11/2021
Elizabeth Miller Kratzert '58	4/15/2021		

Mentors Make a Difference



Centenary University has launched a new Alumni Mentoring Program, pairing successful graduates with students seeking career advice. A partnership between the Office of Advancement and the Office of Career Development and Community Engagement, the pilot program kicked off in fall 2020 with 11 alumni mentors.

"This program provides a meaningful way for alumni to give back," explained Vice President for Advancement Karen DiMaria. "Volunteers maintain a sense of belonging with the University, while providing students with industry knowledge and connections."



*Finish your holiday shopping
—and support Centenary University!
Designate Centenary as your charity of choice
when you shop at smile.amazon.com.*



Celebrating
Centenary University's
155th Anniversary



SET THE STAGE



Centenary Stage Company brings professional theater to western New Jersey. Check out their upcoming performances:

A Christmas Carol
CSC Family Holiday Production
Nov. 26-Dec. 12

Winter Festival of Shows
presented by the Young Performers
Workshop
Dec. 10-19

The Nutcracker
presented by the New Jersey Civic
Youth Ballet
Dec. 17-19

January Thaw Music Festival
The Blue Dahlia
Jan. 15

American Patchwork Quartet
Jan. 22

Best of the Eagles
Jan. 29

Book of Days
presented by NEXTstage Repertory
Feb. 3-7

Meteor Shower
CSC Professional Theatre Series
Feb. 18-March 6

Seamus Egan
CSC Concert Series
March 20

TICKETS:
centenarystageco.org or
908-979-0900



400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840



AT THE STABLES

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Scholarship Event

Honoring
Octavia Brown, '08 HA
June 2, 2022
6 PM

