CU WELCOMES PRESIDENT MATTHEW WHELAN

CU CHAMPIONS RESPOND TO COVID-19

THE RESILIENT CLASS OF 2020
You can help our current students fulfill their promise by making a gift for a scholarship this year. Caldwell graduates take their education and the university’s mission and values into a world in need of fresh ideas, energy and commitment. Your gift, made today, will help put a student’s dreams within reach.

**A CALL TO ACTION:**  
**IMAGINE YOUR IMPACT**

caldwell.edu/donatenow | EMAIL: MakeAnImpact@caldwell.edu | CALL: 973-618-3241

It’s that long-term, financial-peace-of-mind kinda feeling.

Contact me to make a plan that lets you focus on being good at life.

Maria Bruscianelli  
Financial Service Professional  
379 Thornall St., 8th floor  
Edison, NJ 08837  
Cell 908.347.4228  
mbruscianell@ft.newyorklife.com

Insure. Prepare. Retire.  
Be good at life.
CU Welcomes President Matthew Whelan

Caldwell Is a Hispanic-Serving Institution

Teaching In the Pandemic: Lessons In Ingenuity

CU Champions Respond to COVID-19

#Faith – Campus Ministry Uses Virtual Outlets

Black Lives Matter Vigil

New Head Women’s Volleyball Coach

Leadership and Empathy in Action: Tanya Freeman ’08

Lessons Learned from Traveling the Globe: Barbara McFadden ’82

ON THE COVER – Caldwell University’s new president, Matthew Whelan, Ed.D.; Marchelle Boyd ’15, a graduate student in the MSN in population health program and a primary nurse who served patients with COVID-19, and Anamika Sharma Paudel ’20, a care coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for patients with COVID-19 or cancer.
Hello, Caldwell family,

As I sit here today and try to think of meaningful and inspirational words to describe my journey to Caldwell from December 2019, when I first learned about the opportunity to today at the end of July, I cannot help but get distracted by the sadness, tragedy and massive disruption brought on by COVID-19. A term interrupted. Commencements not held. Internships and seasons canceled. Jobs lost. Economic disaster. Social injustice. Rampant illness. Families devastated. But then it hit me. A divine intervention, if you will.

Times like these are exactly why the educational mission of Caldwell University and the legacy of the Sisters of St. Dominic must continue to thrive!

Why? Because we train the nurses—like Marchelle Boyd ’15, featured in our champions article in this issue—who served patients through their journey to recovery or their final hours. Because our professors are dedicated to providing our students with contemporary research—like Dr. Agnes Berki, who is spending her sabbatical on COVID-19 and infectious disease studies. And mostly because our alumni are scattered throughout the country and around the world—teachers, social and public health workers—like Emily Stabile ’18, another of our CU champions featured in this magazine—business executives, artists and of course Sisters, and in a host of other careers and vocations looking to us for inspiration. They are finding that inspiration here, not just in the accomplishments of today but also in their living memories of treasured years at Caldwell.

Perhaps most of all, we are committed to our legacy because our students are learning from all of our Caldwell family listed above who are inspiring them during the most disruptive period in higher education history.

We are able to continue to serve these students because they benefit from your generous donations of scholarships, internships, guidance and mentorship so they can become the first in their families to graduate from a university, especially one as dedicated to their personal, professional and spiritual lives as we are.

We have seen some other great accomplishments recently—our designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, grant funding from the National Science Foundation, international accreditation for top-ranked programs such as the master’s and doctorate in Applied Behavior Analysis, student awards and a herculean effort by the combined group of faculty, staff and administrators who completed the Restart Plan for the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. And there is much more that you will read about in this issue.

Your contributions to Caldwell, as students, faculty or staff members, alumni, trustees, community members or friends make a difference. In big or small ways, your contributions all matter. You matter. And together, as one human race, we all matter in the eyes of God.

I’m looking forward to meeting you soon, in person, to keep you abreast of all of the good going on here—from yesterday, today and for tomorrow. I’ll call on you for your help along the way so we can continue the legacy of the Sisters. No matter who we are, where we live, or how we got here, we all have something to contribute, and for that, I’m thankful!

Matthew Whelan, Ed.D.
President
You, like Renee, Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Future Caldwell Students

Renee (Irene) Sinteff ’73 has enjoyed a great deal of life and career success, much of which she attributes to her education at Caldwell College for Women. Sinteff’s deep gratitude to Caldwell prompted her to include Caldwell University in her will. As a former Peace Corps volunteer, she believes that “service opens the world” to each of us.

“I truly believe that the more well-rounded we become as a result of education, the more we see what we have in common with one another. I would love for my future gift to Caldwell to provide students with an opportunity to travel abroad and experience other cultures.” Sinteff’s legacy speaks to a place that is a cornerstone in her life. As she says, “I’ve always been connected to Caldwell … to me, it’s home.”

To learn more about the ways in which you can support Caldwell through your will, visit http://plannedgiving.caldwell.edu or contact Lori Funicello at lfunicello@caldwell.edu or 973-618-3226.

The Saint Catherine of Siena Circle gratefully acknowledges alumnae and friends who have included Caldwell University in their wills or estate plans.

COUGARS COME TOGETHER

The return-to-campus and faculty task forces have been planning for the new academic year.

The university is following the restart standards for institutions of higher education that were mandated by the state of New Jersey and is keeping abreast of any developing guidance and mandates from state government and public health officials.

Innovative communications tools, signage and messaging have been created to keep students and staff safe and to remind them of their responsibilities for social distancing, face coverings and hygiene.

HANDLE WASHING GUIDE

1. Wet your hands
2. Apply soap
3. Lather for 20 seconds
4. Rinse hands
5. Dry hands with paper towel
6. Use a towel to turn off tap and open door

PLEASE KEEP ONE “COOP” APART AT ALL TIMES

KEEP THE CHAIR ON THE SQUARE

COUGARS COME TOGETHER, DO YOUR PART

Practice social distancing
Cover nose & mouth
Wear other PPE
Stay healthy

HAND WASHING GUIDE

WET YOUR HANDS
APPLY SOAP
LATHER FOR 20 SECONDS
RINSE HANDS
DRY HANDS WITH PAPER TOWEL
USE A TOWEL TO TURN OFF TAP AND TURN OFF DOOR

PLEASE KEEP ONE “COOP” APART AT ALL TIMES

HAND WASHING GUIDE

WET YOUR HANDS
APPLY SOAP
LATHER FOR 20 SECONDS
RINSE HANDS
DRY HANDS WITH PAPER TOWEL
USE A TOWEL TO TURN OFF TAP AND TURN OFF DOOR
When Matthew Whelan was thinking about joining Caldwell University, he found himself recalling his days as a student at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania. “It was a chance to return to something that helped me in my life—a small, Catholic university where students don’t get lost,” says Dr. Whelan, who became the ninth president and first male lay president in Caldwell’s history on July 1. The size of Caldwell, he says, is part of the fabric of the educational, student-life and spiritual experiences. “We recognize people as individuals and not as part of a huge 600-person class.”

Taking the leadership reins at Caldwell was an opportunity for him to support a mission he had experienced as a first-generation college student—a mission he believes can change the lives of students and generations of families. “I would not be where I am today without having gone to a small Catholic university where I had people take an interest in me and people who assisted me educationally and otherwise and helped form me into the person I am today.”

He believes the value of Caldwell University lies in its mission of providing a strong liberal arts foundation that can help students, faculty, staff and administrators across the educational and career spectrum to “see the beauty in others and the beauty in what they do.”

The goals of pursuing truth and contributing to a just society are particularly important to live out, he says, at a time when there are cries for racial equality and when COVID-19 has drastically changed our way of life. Caldwell’s core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence are a foundation on which “all of us can stand and fight any type of injustice we see—economic, social or racial.” Consider respect alone, he says. “Can you imagine what the world would be like if we all began to look at each other as individual human beings, as creations of God? That would go a long way for all of us in solving social ills that plague us right now.” But, he stresses, “It will take everybody.”

Respect is something he and his seven siblings learned from their parents growing up in Denville, New Jersey. There were other important lessons, too: “how to get along... politeness and that you can’t always win...and they taught us that sometimes you have to compromise and sometimes you don’t. Compromise for solutions, but never compromise your values,” says Dr. Whelan. And then, of course, how to do the dishes and iron—“some of the skills it takes to run a large household.”

Dr. Whelan has carried those moral (and practical) values with him throughout his 30-plus years in higher education in public and Catholic institutions. He came to Caldwell after serving as vice president for university enrollment strategy and relationship development at Stony Brook University, which serves undergraduate, graduate and professional program students from across the U.S. and around the world. He held key leadership roles at Stony Brook with undergraduate and graduate admissions, financial aid, the registrar’s office, enrollment management, student services, fundraising, facilities, and strategic initiatives for several campuses. He was previously vice president for strategic initiatives at Stony Brook.

Whelan also served at St. John’s University, Hofstra University, William Paterson University and Mercyhurst College, his undergraduate alma mater. He helped coach a women’s soccer team to an NCAA Division II Final Four appearance and taught graduate students in higher education administration. Along the way he has had good mentors, in particular Dr. Andrew Roth, who led two Catholic colleges and who continues to inspire him, demonstrating “that a career in higher education was also a vocation.”

Experiencing the first day on the job as a university president during a pandemic is certainly a road less traveled. Dr. Whelan was pleasantly surprised by Caldwell faculty and staff who drove by beeping horns and shouting well wishes from cars decorated with spirited welcome signs while he and his wife, Kathy, and two
of his three daughters waved from the sidelines. Then they attended a prayer service in the campus chapel with the cabinet members—socially distant—to ask for God’s blessing upon the university and President Whelan’s leadership. Scripture readings focusing on the Dominican pillars were recorded by students and played back as Dr. Whelan lit candles. “That meant so much to me and my family,” he says.

Since then, he and the university restart teams have been making sure campus operations are COVID-ready for the fall semester—a “hardening of the infrastructure,” he says. “It is up to us to do everything within our power while we’re dealing with this to keep our students, faculty and staff as safe as possible to mitigate risk but also to ensure the continuity of the educational experience for our students.”

President Whelan is eager to be among Caldwell University students as soon as he can. He has already met some—like the international students who are living in the residence halls since closed borders during the pandemic prevented them from returning home. Within a week after Dr. Whelan started his job, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE issued guidance requiring international students to return to their home countries for the fall semester if their universities did not provide classroom-based instruction. Dr. Whelan personally visited the students to assure them that he and the university administration were doing all they could to provide classroom-based instruction and that he was working on the state and national levels with other higher education leaders to urge the government to reverse that guidance. In the end, the government rescinded the decision. Dr. Whelan also participated in the Black Lives Matter candlelight vigil with students on campus in July.

“They’ll see me,” the new president promises students. “They’ll see me in the cafeteria when we are able; they’ll see me at the athletic events when we are able.” He and Kathy are “huge supporters” of culture—the arts, athletics, service and academic events. “Colleges and universities are just enlivening places to be, so we will be out and involved in the community,” Dr. Whelan says. The “when we are able part” is a COVID-19 reality. “We are trying to rebalance and plan every single day,” he says of the university’s work in following government and public health guidelines and planning for fall classes and operations.

Dr. Whelan is moved by the passion with which members of the CU family have responded to COVID-19—as doctors and nurses, in social service agencies, protecting hometowns and cities in law enforcement, in the food industry and working behind the scenes to ensure funding is continually available to support all those front-line operations. “Caldwell people are everywhere, and so helping their communities is really living out the Caldwell mission,” Dr. Whelan says. And collaborating with the university alumni are benefactors and partners whose “time, talent and treasure” are more critical than ever—whether through their financial assistance or supporting students in their communities. Though Caldwell is a physical place, it also is a “sense of being,” he says, a commitment to taking the core values and mission wherever students and graduates go.

These days Dr. Whelan is engaging and listening to as many people as possible to learn everything he can about Caldwell University. He especially wants to hear from students to learn who they are and why they chose Caldwell and “to make sure we are living up to the promise of a Caldwell education.”

He is looking forward to the fall semester “in whatever format we are in, which with the grace of God, will include students on campus,” he says, so Caldwell can begin to return to “normalcy or the new normal while we continue to deliver the best Caldwell experience possible.” His immediate goal is to learn what makes Caldwell tick. And then, among his many ideas, he has a long term one in mind. “We’ll start to plan for the centennial, [which comes] in 19 years. Our focus is on preserving the legacy the Sisters began more than 80 years ago. Nothing is more important.”

—CL
It is a story they will be telling future generations all their lives. A story of how in the middle of the final semester of their university careers, life was abruptly changed as they were pushed inside due to a worldwide pandemic and social distancing. All but a few had to leave campus.

Athletics, concerts, presentations, club events and celebrations were canceled if they could not take on a virtual form. ‘Tough?’ You bet. But once they got past the shock, members of the Class of 2020 met the challenge head on with resilience, expressing gratitude for all they did have and keeping focused on their goal of earning their degrees.

They joined their peers, professors and staff members on Google Hangouts Meet, Zoom or Blackboard. Students, professors, staff and coaches were valiant as they strove to humanize the technology, reaching out to those in need and bringing academic excellence, talent and “air hugs” to the communications.

Along with their studies, many students were going to their jobs, as essential workers and first responders in hospitals, grocery stores and public health organizations.

On May 17, the students made it to the finish line, earning their university degrees with the tenacity and passion needed to go out and contribute to a just society.

At the virtual celebration, Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice president for student life, prayed, entrusting the graduates to God’s hands. “May God, who began this good work in you, carry it through to completion, and may God give you the grace to make wise choices and to be faithful to your commitments … “May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world so that you will do the things that others tell you cannot be done, and may your integrity be a gift to the world and may the spirit of God be with you always.”

At the time of this magazine’s printing, a graduation ceremony was planned for Sunday, Sept. 20. The undergraduate commencement speaker is Lamar Shea-Chang, who earned a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and biology with a minor in chemistry. He has been selected as the Class of 2020 undergraduate ceremony commencement speaker.

in computer information systems and biology with a minor in chemistry. The graduate ceremony commencement speaker is Marisa Juliano, who received her master’s in clinical mental health counseling with a specialization in art therapy on May 17 and holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Caldwell.
Caldwell Academics

Congratulations to the Class of 2020
Yaman Thapa ’22, a biology and chemistry major, won the “I Am Generation Equality” online article writing competition sponsored by The Zerone Magazine, UN Women Nepal and LOCUS 2020. Her article “Significant Turns” focuses on intergenerational dialogue and was slated to be published on the online outlets for UN Women Nepal.

Shweta Sapkota ’20 won first prize from the New Jersey Academy of Science in the 2021 senior academy research presentation health or medicine category. She was awarded a grant from the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) for her research. Sapkota received a bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Caldwell on May 17 and is working at Quest Diagnostics as a medical technician in a microbiology clinical lab. She is grateful to the ICFNJ, her professors and the university for their support. “I cannot thank the university enough for providing students like me with an appropriate platform and all the required materials to broadcast our talent in the form of research projects.”

In the ecology, environmental or marine science category, Sudeep Khadka came in second and Madison Perry in third. Venisse Abanilla, Kriti Sitaula, Yaman Thapa and Saliha Ulgur received honorable mentions.

Avilasha Joshi ’21 gave a poster presentation on her research on “Friendship Pattern of International Students at Caldwell University: Assessing Segregation in Cultural and Cross-Cultural Relations” at the Eastern Sociological Society’s 90th annual meeting in Philadelphia in February. Joshi, a sociology and communications and media studies major with a minor in literature, focused on how international students make friends and the causal relationship between different nationalities and their adjustment level in college. “A study on this relationship is important because a student’s adjustment level has a great impact on his/her outcomes in college and greatly affects their physical and mental well-being,” said Joshi, a senior. She was happy for the challenge to present as an undergraduate among a group of participants who had already graduated. “I was able to meet different people from different colleges and universities who have a similar degree or career choice as mine, which was extremely refreshing.” She is grateful to her professors Dr. Yang Cai, chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and professor of sociology, who she says “has been supporting and rooting for me since my freshman year,” and Dr. Lena Campagna, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, who “actively encouraged” her, peer-revised her article and even helped set up at the conference.

Communication and media studies graduate Prabhat Gurung ’20 along with staff member Colette Liddy and Dr. Nancy Blattner were recognized with an honorable mention Gabriel Award for the video on Caldwell’s year with The Saint John’s Bible. Gurung did the filming and editing, Liddy the producing and Dr. Blattner was on-air talent. The Gabriel Awards recognize the best in film, broadcasting and cross-platform media and honor works that support themes of dignity, compassion, community and justice.

The Department of Natural Sciences was renamed the School of Natural Sciences effective July 1 now that it has become one of the largest academic units at Caldwell. Associate Dean William Velhagen, Ph.D., says he and his colleagues are proud that growing numbers of science majors have been accepted into internships and into Ph.D. and health profession programs at prestigious institutions. “Students and faculty have also been awarded several grants to conduct research and to support scholars. I am grateful to the university cabinet for recognizing the accomplishments of our faculty and students.”
Earlier this year Caldwell University was formally recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. The designation reflects the growth in enrollment of Hispanic students at the university and the welcoming environment Caldwell has created for the students. The designation makes the university eligible to compete for federal grant programs managed by the HSI Division of the U.S. Department of Education.

Stephen Quinn, vice president of enrollment management and communications, said Caldwell is proud to receive this recognition. “Our Hispanic students have enriched our campus life for years. Caldwell is a place where students share the richness of their cultures and know they have support in exploring and pursuing their academic and career goals.”

Cindy Herrera is a first-generation college student who is pursuing her dream to earn a degree. She is doing it not only for herself but also for her parents who have worked hard for her benefit. “I try to become their hopes and dreams for what they envisioned in themselves,” said Herrera, who is a campus ambassador for the Admissions Office. A criminal justice major with three minors—pre-law, criminal forensics and psychology—Herrera appreciates how the university values its Hispanic students and gives them opportunities to celebrate their cultures through academics, clubs and even food in the dining hall.

“Caldwell University recognizes me and the entire Hispanic population as students who can change the future. I will always be thankful for that.”

Caldwell University joins over 500 designated HSIs in 25 states that serve two-thirds of all Hispanic students enrolled in higher education in the U.S.
When the tsunami of the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, professors transitioned quickly to remote teaching. To prepare for remote learning, the Offices of Academic Affairs, Information Technology, and Online Education held several robust workshops for faculty and staff. The Jennings Library staff and the Office of Academic Affairs collected devices from across the campus, and the Office of Information Technology updated the computers for students. The library staff organized and created a checkout plan. Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Barbara Chesler reached out to faculty members to ask them to contact students to see who might need a device.

Professors ingeniously enhanced learning via Zoom, Blackboard, Google Hangouts Meet or other formats while reaching out to make sure students had the information and tools they needed to persist. Jon Sigurjonsson, assistant professor in the School of Psychology and Counseling, says the class he had the “most fun” in was the 400 level course Heroes & Villains: The Psychology of Comic Books. From a psychological framework, the course explores how comic books have addressed concepts such as power, discrimination and the human psyche and how the characters delve into what triggers and motivates human psychology. The class met on Zoom, and for one class Sigurjonsson invited a colleague who works for the French Academy of Sciences to talk about neuroimaging.

The final project requires students to create a superhero. This year the students leaned toward themes on healing, empathy and calmness, something Sigurjonsson found interesting in light of the pandemic. As tough as the health crisis has been, he believes the forced digital environment is benefiting pedagogy. “We are all learning.”

“What was the last thing that made you smile?” is a question that Assistant Professor of Business Sal Ferraro asks his students at the beginning of each class. Students will respond with everything from how they enjoyed a cup of coffee to talking to their mothers. “It is a good way to have them take a small break from all the stress of school,” says Ferraro. When classes switched to remote learning to keep some consistency, Ferraro would send out an email with a motivational quote from him before each class, and he put in place Video Wednesday, featuring a Ted Talk. Ferraro also planned Sunday movie nights. He and the students would gather on Google Hangouts Meet and enjoy the films together virtually. It was a way for them to decompress and “not worry about work,” Ferraro says. He selected motivational movies to help them realize “that they could get through this and that things were going to get better.”

Students in English Professor Mary Ann Miller’s Intro to Poetry course attended virtual poetry readings featuring CavanKerry Press authors. They chose poets’ books to review in the customer review section on Amazon.com as part of a service-learning project in this course. Miller normally runs the service-learning component by hosting public readings for poets at the Caldwell Public Library but was quickly able to adapt to the virtual format and broaden the number of poets who could participate in the project. She was grateful for the CavanKerry staff’s enthusiastic support including how they recorded and publicized the readings and sent books to students whose Amazon orders were delayed.

When Art Professor Kendall Baker left campus during the shutdown in March, he packed up everything he would need to teach remotely including supplies for demonstrations. “Creating art is always a crisis based on uncertainty… the objective is to explore, fail and succeed." Creating art is always a crisis based on uncertainty,” he says. “The objective is to explore, fail and succeed.” This process of discovery was tested by the lack of in-person classes and studio time. The lessons Baker teaches in three-dimensional design proved most challenging, requiring his students to
understand negative space—the area around and between the subject(s) of an image—and to have an understanding of the role of texture. He studied tutorial platforms, then taught using the tutorials accompanied with his annotations. For his photography classes, he used GIMP, a free graphics editor used for image retouching and editing and free-form drawing, and Darktable, a free and open-source photography application software and raw developer.

To adapt his 3D design and digital photography classes for remote learning, Baker suspended a laptop from the ceiling in his study on a simple trapeze, allowing his students to see the technical demonstrations on the work table below. The computer screen on the far side of his workbench displayed the students’ view and allowed for comments on the chat feature. In his sculpture class, students moved their smartphones, virtually circling a sculpture, even viewing the interior spaces. Performing these camera movements also increased students’ awareness of the many possible perspectives and aspects of 3D form and texture of their work.

Whether learning from a computer screen suspended in full view of family or amid the cacophony of Zoom calls in the background, students persevered. Baker is grateful to his colleagues in the Visual Art and Design Department, both full-time and adjunct, whose innovative solutions and dedication to helping students he found inspiring.

Dr. William A. Velhagen Jr., professor of biology and associate dean of the School of Natural Sciences, started to explore distance learning options upon first hearing about COVID-19. Since he teaches anatomy, foremost in his mind was the need for an innovative way to present labs online. Labs involve all the senses; how, he wondered, would he teach students to perform a virtual dissection, outside a classroom setting?

He consulted with colleagues at other colleges and learned that some went to their campuses, did experiments and recorded them. But he wanted a better solution. One publishing company he knew of offered a computer-generated virtual body through which the viewer could see the layers of human skin. It seemed a viable solution for teaching, but Velhagen wanted something closer to his ideal.

After watching many helpful webinars offered free of charge by book publishers, he found McGraw Hill Connect, a platform combining course management with sophisticated learning and reporting tools customizable for a wide range of teaching styles. The technology offered virtual online labs, including dissection, and visuals with accompanying details—more than 11,000 structures in 260 views, allowing students to view and dissect real cadavers.

In addition to their teaching, we have heard stories of professors and staff who have reached out quietly to ensure students were faring well during these unprecedented times. For example, after closed borders kept international students from going home, a professor would treat them to takeout dinners from a local restaurant. As one student wrote in an email to this unsung hero, “…I really appreciate everything that you have done for us on campus, for we are extremely grateful for your kindness and consideration. You have definitely made our stay here much more enjoyable and bearable…”

When Caldwell University moved online in March, Jennings Library became a completely digital resource. Librarians and staff pivoted quickly to continue to provide students and faculty assistance with research, instruction and circulation remotely. The library was open online, serving the Caldwell University community. “The library staff did an amazing job moving our services online. Their creativity and versatility allowed for a smooth, successful transition during an uncertain time,” says Library Director Heather Cook.

Library instruction and citation workshops were held live via Zoom and Google Hangouts Meet or were recorded and posted for asynchronous learning. In-person events were quickly moved online. Kim Lynch, reference services and archives librarian, created short instructional videos on how to use library resources and posted them to social media to reach students there. They were more successful than Quibi! Circulation manager Roseann Pennisi and circulation assistant Monica Duran were flooded with inter-library loan requests for electronic journal articles and ebook chapters and were able to fulfill requests for students and faculty in the middle of research.

Once the spring semester ended, librarians had a chance to breathe and assess, but they continue to work and prepare for the fall. Lynch found that chat stats had risen dramatically. Cook and Librarian Victoria Swanson created library orientation videos for faculty and graduate students for virtual orientation. Librarians, staff and student workers implemented a library takeout program for a contactless circulation service to start in mid July and continue in the fall semester.

In the fall, librarians will partner with a Caldwell working group on a campuswide book discussion on anti-racism. Ellen Johnston, cataloging and reference librarian, created an anti-racism research guide to provide information and resources.

Cook says, “The library staff are working hard on a plan and preparing to reopen Jennings Library safely so we can all get back to campus and to the in-person community we love.”
THE LEGACY CONTINUES
The Legacy Wall in the Student Center Hall of Flags has been updated adding our new president, Dr. Matthew Whelan’s photo and three new panels chronicling events and achievements. The beautiful display was created by our partners at Graphic Imagery Inc. Take a closer look at the legacy wall by visiting www.caldwell.edu/legacywall.
Faculty & Staff Notes

Agnes T. Berki, MSc Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Natural Sciences, is taking part in a sabbatical that aims to develop and validate new diagnostic tools to survey the SARS-CoV-2 virus in COVID-19 patients. Berki is working with Biota Inc., New York, where among her responsibilities she is working on state-of-the-art precision infectious disease diagnostics using next-generation sequencing and AI-powered software to detect, characterize and monitor COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Kathleen Boreale, assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Public Health, earned a Ph.D. in nursing from Rutgers University.

Ruth M. DeBar, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored five research papers that were presented at the 46th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, held virtually. DeBar also co-authored two research papers published in Behavioral Interventions and Behavior Analysis in Practice.

Meghan Deshais, Ph.D., BCBA-D, assistant professor in the Department of Applied Behavior Analysis, co-authored a study in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and three paper presentations and one poster presentation at local and national conferences.

James Flynn, Ph.D., associate professor of theology and philosophy, chaired a colloquium on virtue at the American Philosophical Association Central Division conference in Chicago in February.

Susan Hayes, director of institutional research and assessment, received a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Caldwell University.

Valerie D. Lewis-Mosley, adjunct lecturer in the Department of Theology and Philosophy, had her article “My unbridled tongue challenges inequities that threaten Black women’s lives” published in the National Catholic Reporter on July 9.

Thomson J. Ling, Ph.D., professor and associate dean in the School of Psychology and Counseling, Karla Batres, Miguel Rodriguez and Marcia Hughes, associate director of residence life, had a presentation examining best practices for achieving equity in higher education accepted for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity. The presentation was titled “You’re a minority-serving institution, now what? Moving the needle to be truly minority-serving.”

Maria Lupo, M.F.A., M.A., ATR-BC, adjunct professor in the School of Psychology and Counseling, had a solo exhibition in February at Warren County Community College in Washington, New Jersey, featuring 20 paintings from her Intruder series including a presentation to the campus on the art of art therapy. In March, Lupo’s artwork was included in the exhibition “A Place Called Home” at Studio Montclair Gallery. A doctoral candidate in medical humanities at Drew University, Lupo is the recipient of a 2019-20 Paul Drucker Arts of Respect fellowship for her project “Oh What My Eyes Have Seen.”

Neil Malvone, assistant professor of sport management and esports business, moderated the Collegiate Sports Management Group’s Sports Summit panel on “The Future Growth of Athletics at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)” on June 30. The panel featured sports management professionals who discussed the challenges and opportunities of HBCU athletic programs in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Megan Matesic, research analyst in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, earned a Ph.D. in higher education leadership, management and policy from Seton Hall University. Her dissertation was titled “First-Year Retention of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education.”

Mary Ann Miller, Ph.D., professor of English, moderated and participated in a roundtable titled “Curating the Catholic Imagination: Editors’ Roundtable Discussion” at the Third Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference: The Future of the Catholic Literary Tradition at Loyola University Chicago, Sept. 19-21, 2019. At the conference she hosted an evening poetry reading from Presence, a poetry journal she edits, and exhibited the journal at the book fair. From March 5-7, Miller exhibited Presence at the book fair during the annual conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in San Antonio.

Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, professor of applied behavior analysis, had a paper accepted for publication in the journal Behavioral Interventions. The paper, which investigated how to teach children their caregivers’ contact information in case they are lost, was co-authored with his M.A. in ABA student Tiffany LaFond and ABA department colleagues. Ken was a co-author on four additional papers accepted for publication in behavior analytic journals. He served as an invited discussant for the symposium “Theoretical and Experimental Aspects of Emergent Stimulus Relations” at the Association for Behavior Analysis International’s virtual convention in May of 2020 where he was also a co-author with his students and colleagues on five research paper presentations. Ken also served as a guest associate editor for the journal The
Psychological Record and was selected to join the editorial board of the journal Perspectives on Behavior Science.

Sharon A. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, professor of applied behavior analysis, was a co-author along with her doctoral student Eileen Milata and ABA colleagues on a research paper investigating how to teach adolescents with autism how to make store purchases with a debit card. The paper was published in the journal Behavioral Interventions. Sharon was also a co-author on a research paper published in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis investigating teaching adults to arrange safe infant sleep environments. Along with her students and ABA colleagues, she was also a co-author on six research papers presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International’s virtual convention in May of 2020. The presentation topics included teaching classroom social skills to children with disabilities and teaching children with autism spectrum disorder how to follow directions. Sharon also served as an article reviewer for multiple ABA and autism journals.

Rosa Mirna Sanchez, Ph.D., O.P.A., associate professor of Spanish language, literature and culture, presented her paper “Identidad y autenticidad en ‘Ahora que vuelvo, Ton’ de René del Risco Bermúdez” at the XXVI Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos, held in virtual format June 18 to 19.

Andrei St. Felix, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund program, had her article “Calling on our beautiful forms of prayer during the COVID-19 pandemic” published on the National Black Catholic Congress website.

Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP, LBA (NY), associate professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored five papers in press or published in peer-reviewed journals (The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and The Psychological Record) and several research papers presented virtually at the annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. He gave invited presentations for the Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis conference in Omaha and the annual Autism: Challenges and Solutions conference in Moscow, held virtually. He joined the editorial board for the peer-reviewed journal Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice and accepted the 2020 B. F. Skinner Foundation New Researcher Award in the area of applied research.

Colleen O’Brien, campus ministry director, and Katherine Kopec ’21, attended the Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassador Virtual Voices conference July 20-21. Kopec joined students from around the U.S. to learn about advocacy with congressional leaders, writing a letter to a news editor and leveraging social media. This year’s conference focused on issues of migration and hunger and participants had a chance to meet virtually with congressional staff members.

Bob Mann, professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies, won first place in the podcast-news feature category in the Garden State Journalists Association Memorial Journalism Award competition for his “Hot Media with Bob Mann” podcast episode titled “Make My Day.” The episode focused on the movie “Richard Jewell” and featured investigative reporter, professor and past president of the Society of Professional Journalists Hagit Limor.

Dr. Nancy Blattner received the Caldwell Cup, which is awarded to an employee who has made a unique contribution to the campus. The winner is someone who has exhibited a superior professional approach that goes beyond mere job description and that uniquely benefits Caldwell University and whose positive personal influence demonstrably affects the university community.

The Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Anne Marie Callahan, professor in the School of Business and Computer Information Systems.

The Mission in Action Award was presented to Tom Duggan, director of dining services for Gourmet Dining, who provided meals during the pandemic to the students who were living on campus and off-campus students facing food insecurity. Duggan also coordinated the distribution of food donations from the campus community’s food drive.

The Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award was presented to Meghan Deshais, assistant professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis, clinical supervisor, Center for Autism and ABA.
NOW ON DISPLAY!
Works from the Class of 2020

The senior project exhibitions for art majors in the Class of 2020 were canceled when the campus went remote due to the pandemic. When this group of graduates was asked to share some of their work for publication, four artists were happy to step forward, and we are happy to celebrate their creative accomplishments!

**DANIELLE ANDERSEN**
*Left to right: Danielle, Jill, Reva*

*Oil on canvas*

**Artist Statement:** The subject matter of my exhibition is a generational study featuring my maternal grandmother, my mother and me. My goal was to create emotive portraits through the use of an exaggerated color palette coupled with evocative facial expressions. The use of color in my paintings signifies certain associations I have with the subjects of the paintings.

**EMILY BRAISTED**

*Static Motion*

*Plaster; plaster on tulle*

**Artist Statement:** My exhibition focuses on simplicity and fragility. What appears to be flexible, sturdy and lightweight is transformed into something immobile, fragile and heavy. My work attempts to examine the phenomenon of ballet as a representational interpretation of Degas.

**KELLE LALIER**

*Inspirational Musicians*

*Matte Paper*

**Artist Statement:** My exhibit features digital portraits of musicians that showcase the ways in which each personality, musical genre and unique overall aesthetic inspire me. I enjoy including small details in my work that will only be noticed by people familiar with each artist.

**JENNIFER STORM**

*Flying Fish*

*Acrylic on canvas*

**Artist Statement:** My exhibition depicts scenes from nature featuring juxtaposed and/or imaginary twists. This painting of koi fish is set against a night sky. I find great inspiration in contrasting black with pops of bright color and enjoy the ways in which the dark and light work together in a complementary manner.
A Summer of Painting

Every morning in the summer they would get up and put on their paint-splattered clothes and their pandemic-required masks and report to work to paint the campus—areas of Mother Joseph and Dominican Residence Halls, the Student Center and the Administration building. Perhaps when their peers return to campus most will not notice the fresh paint brightening up a room or the painstaking precision used on the molding, but these eight students will know. How could they walk past those walls and forget the summer of 2020—the summer when these international students, who could not return home with borders closed in the lockdowns, lived in a community in the residence halls, painted, became friends and painted some more? How could they forget the hands-on education that built their vocabularies with the language of drop cloths, painter’s tape and rollers, primer, palettes and sandpaper?

Raymond Williams, director of plant operations, and Domenico Minotti, operations manager, were happy to hire the students. “They have been fantastic,” said Williams. Painting, painting and more painting. And in between, they bonded and learned about each other’s ends of the earth.

The dynamic team consisted of Maftuna Alimjanovna, a biology major from Uzbekistan; Avilasha Joshi, a communication and media studies and sociology major; Abhisank Khadka, a communication information systems major, Utsav KC, a financial economics and mathematics major from Nepal; Deneisha Williams, a biology major from Trinidad and Tobago; Akwasi Osei-Du, a financial economics and mathematics major from Ghana, and Jose Perez Ramos, a financial economics and marketing major from Spain.

“It is like a family here,” said Sherstha of the tiny summer crew. Sure, it was a challenge at first when the other students dispersed in March, but then they saw how the campus community reached out, providing them with meals seven days a week and constantly making sure they were cared for. “The painting experience is a great opportunity for me to be able to interact with other students so that my time on this campus is not spent one hundred percent isolated,” said Deneisha Williams ’23.

Most of the students had never painted before but they became quite proficient at it. The job “is enervating” and at the same time enjoyable, said Deneisha. It is a skill the students know they will use in the future whether for employment or in painting their kids’ bedrooms—“a lifelong trade beneficial to my future,” said Deneisha. Osei-Du ’22 appreciated the education process. “From learning how to prepare the rooms and floors before painting to painting the walls by rolling them in a controlled manner, it’s been an art that improves on a daily basis.” Their gratitude is obvious the minute you start talking to them—gratitude for all the little things, like how the administration continually reached out to them and how they would run into the Sisters of St. Dominic on campus. And “Ray and Dom” made the work fun, “continuously cracked jokes, fed us and made sure we remained hydrated,” said Deneisha. “Dom forces us to take breaks,” making sure they would not get dehydrated, said Joshi.

Lunches were good too. Tom Duggan, director of dining services for Gourmet Dining, never stopped working, making sure that meals were ready in the cafeteria and that donations from the food pantry were out. Minotti made runs to the famous Andrea Deli in Orange, New Jersey, to pick up chicken cutlets, mac and cheese and homemade pizza.

In the evenings when temperatures would drop a bit, the crew would often gather in the quiet of the campus for Perez’s workout sessions, joined by the other students living in the dorms. The rising senior from Spain started his social distance exercise classes on the green between Dominican and Rosary halls after students saw him doing his routine. “They asked me if they could work out with me, and of course I said yes. It actually felt like a compliment to me.” The students got pretty serious about the sessions, creating a WhatsApp group chat.

As international students they shared some of the same challenges—when to find time to talk to family in other time zones and identifying the most convenient technology to use across the miles.

It was a summer of learning the skills of a trade, but most of all it was a season that provided invaluable experience in learning how to adapt to life’s changes and seeing that there are silver linings even in challenging times—like focusing on the opportunities presented to them for personal growth. As Osei-Du said, engaging in teamwork helped them form a little community of friends with a shared goal of producing a quality product. It’s a community he hopes the students “will carry on from these times into the future” in the larger community of Caldwell University.

—CL
Serving Covid Patients in the Hospital

Marchelle Boyd served coronavirus patients for nearly three months during the pandemic, which made her realize how much she wants to be a nursing professor or to enter hospital leadership. “I want to educate and teach the next generation of nursing professionals,” said Boyd, citing the shortage of nurses. Boyd, who holds a BSN from Caldwell, is a primary nurse in a medical surgery unit at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset and was reassigned to a COVID-19 unit from March to May. “When an emergency hits, you learn a lot about yourself and the virus,” said Boyd, who is chapter president of the Middlesex Regional Black Nurses Association and is studying in the Master of Science in Nursing in Population Health program. During the peak, Boyd reached out to family members of patients via FaceTime to connect them with their loved ones who were dying. “I felt a responsibility and obligation to my patients and their families … it was truly heartbreaking but important.” She appreciates how she and her colleagues were there for each other and became closer as a team. Boyd, who will be a graduate assistant in nursing at Caldwell in the fall, hopes people emerge from the pandemic with a better sense of community—of “What you do affects me.”

Investigated Crime Scenes and Visited Morgues During the Outbreak

Khaliah Douglas works as an officer with the Union County Sheriff’s Office in the Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Unit, and she is an adjunct lecturer at Caldwell University in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Douglas has worked in CSI for three years and is responsible for processing all homicide- and police-involved shooting scenes in Union County. She also has assessed, processed and solved shooting investigations, infant deaths, burglaries and aggravated assault cases in the county. During the initial wave of the COVID outbreak she wore personal protective equipment ranging from gloves and KN95 masks to full-body Tyvek suits while investigating crime scenes and visiting morgues to view autopsies. The work was definitely challenging at times, she says, but she remained readily available to serve the community. Douglas is extremely grateful to members of the Union County community for their “generous donations throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic.” She says these offerings helped keep her safe so she could keep the community safe. “The PPE, hand sanitizer, lunch donations and prayers truly went a long way.”
If ever someone deserved the staff Mission in Action Award this year it was Tom Duggan, director of dining services for Gourmet Dining. And he received it at honors convocation May 7. Throughout the pandemic, Duggan provided meals to the students who were still living on campus and students off campus who faced food insecurity. With the assistance of chef Kevin Oates, Duggan made sure the students had nutritious meals seven days a week. He stocked the fridge with three meals a day Monday through Friday and then made sure the weekend entrees, salads and sandwiches were ready to go. He and Oates tried to cater to the likes of the students, many of whom were international students who could not return home. Duggan also coordinated the distribution of food donations from the campus food drive. “The community has been extremely generous,” he said.

Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice president of student life, said Duggan is a frontline hero. In addition to ensuring sustenance for students on and off campus, she said, he took time to engage with the students and to ask them how they were each day. “He truly cares and in so doing, reflects the CU promise and mission.”

Brittany Gaule is a rising senior at Caldwell University majoring in psychology and minoring in human resource management. In addition to her studies at Caldwell, she has been very involved in campus ministry throughout her time at Caldwell. She has selflessly served others by volunteering her time in midnight runs for the homeless among other outreach efforts.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gaule has been a hero in her part-time job as a grocery store cashier at ACME. She and her father have worked at ACME for several years. Gaule is no stranger to hard work, but her days during the height of the pandemic were anything but typical. As a cashier, she served hundreds of customers a day. They stood in long lines and arrived more stressed than usual. Gaule is an outgoing person and normally makes conversation with her customers. However, increased protective measures, such as masks worn in public places and sneeze guards at each register, made conversation with the customers she greeted much more challenging.

Nonetheless, Gaule persevered and made the best of the situation. “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass; it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Marisa Juliano spent several months serving COVID-19 patients and high-risk seniors in Sycamore Living, a senior wellness community in East Hanover, New Jersey. As a lifestyle engagement associate, Juliano created personal activity kits to provide stimulating pastimes for isolated seniors. She was part of an innovative program that connected residents with their families and the Sycamore Living staff through the use of Alexa Echo Shows, allowing face-to-face communication that would otherwise have been impossible. Juliano, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in sociology, received her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in art therapy on May 17. She credits her time at the university with preparing her for the job. “Being in the program has undoubtedly prepared me to jump in the front lines during this pandemic,” Juliano says, “as counseling theory and technique come into play as well as the art therapy perspective.”

Through the unique combination of traditional counseling and therapy techniques with the innovative application of new technology, Juliano has been able to offer care to isolated patients in a way that brings true connection. “I have heard stories about fear, loss, death but also of hope and prayer for a better world after this.” Juliano has been selected to serve as the commencement speaker at the graduate ceremony for the Class of 2020.
ROKSANA KORBI '20

SERVING IN THE E.R. AS A STUDENT DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Working in a hospital emergency department as an emergency technician during the COVID-19 pandemic, Roksana Korbi administered tests for vital signs, EKGs, phlebotomy and blood glucose monitoring. She observed nurses and doctors donning and doffing personal protective equipment to ensure that the right sequence was followed to avoid contamination. Korbi, who received her bachelor of arts degree in biology May 17, was also responsible for transporting patients from their cars to the hospital rooms, taking them on a route with minimal contact and then hooking them up to monitors. “Working during the outbreak made me more convinced that I want to pursue a career in medicine. It is saddening and unfair for patients to have to go through this virus.” She is grateful to the Natural Sciences Department faculty who gave her support in academics and guided her toward internship opportunities.

AMANDA MASCOLO '21

HER MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SKILLS HELPED SENIORS WITH ISOLATION

Amanda Mascolo was able to work with seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic because of the training she received at Caldwell University. “My time and experience from Caldwell’s academic program has prepared me to be patient, empathetic and understanding of this population especially during this time,” said Mascolo, a graduate student in the mental health counseling program. Mascolo is a lifestyle engagement associate at Sycamore Living, a senior wellness community in East Hanover, New Jersey, helping residents navigate the challenges and isolation that came with COVID. She recognized that, in addition to the activities she could provide patients, such as kits containing art supplies, she could offer them the gift of companionship. She formed bonds with some of the residents, helping them feel less alone during a time of unprecedented separation. “Many of the skills I have learned throughout my counseling courses have helped me to be able to work with the residents,” Mascolo said.

EMILY STABILE '18

OPERATING A HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 CALL LINE

Emily Stabile works for the Fairfax County Health Department in Virginia and throughout the pandemic she has operated a COVID-19 call line. She has played a vital role in giving the community guidance and information on the coronavirus on everything from testing sites to symptoms to easing anxieties. A public health education graduate, Stabile is normally employed as a school health aide for the county health department, responding to emergencies, administering medications, conducting vision and hearing screenings, and handling other health-related tasks in an elementary school. The county follows a public health model and has nurses in school health rooms just once a week to oversee all tasks. Working during the coronavirus outbreak has been an experience Stabile will never forget. “I have had the chance to use my public health knowledge from my time at Caldwell and my time at the health department to help the general public calling in with inquiries.” People are very grateful for the service. “It is the best feeling to be able to help people get the help and care that they need.”
The goal of Campus Ministry at Caldwell University is to connect students and the rest of the university community to faith and service opportunities. So how does such a ministry function when the unprecedented happens and people must be reached remotely? For the director of Campus Ministry, Colleen O’Brien, this challenge proved to be one she could tackle using modern technology.  

“The goals stayed the same,” O’Brien said as she reflected on ministering during COVID-19. “Another goal we added was to make sure people found a source of comfort and peace during that time.”

Campus Ministry managed to create that space through two weekly programs. First, the staff began offering a virtual rosary at the start of the quarantine. During that time, there was a reading of the day, a short reflection, an offering of prayer intentions and then a recitation of the rosary, all accessible through Google Hangout Meets. These scheduled meetings gave people an easy way to join a prayer group that could meet their spiritual needs, even if they weren’t students.

“I think it was nice that going virtual allowed even our alumni to join in along with our students, faculty and staff that joined,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien knows that offering a routine can help to keep people on track during uncertain times. “I know for myself I might not have picked up the rosary every week to pray, but then there was something to look forward to.”

Brooke McPherson ’20, who assisted in running the virtual rosary, feels the same way. “It was very helpful to just have the routine of doing something each Wednesday. I’m a creature of habit, so having all my schedules suddenly trashed was very overwhelming and anxiety provoking, but the rosary helped me to keep my head. I enjoyed joining with our group each week for just a few moments of contemplation and prayer. It reminded me that even if we’re virtual, we’re still a strong community at Caldwell.”

While the virtual rosary provided a great means of connection, Campus Ministry has also created a way for the CU community to share personal stories of faith. Through Faith Fridays, available on YouTube, students share their stories and tell others why their faith plays such a large role in their lives.

“I do feel as though I learned a lot from these interviews,” O’Brien said. “These aren’t conversations I have all the time with students, and getting to sit down with them in this way helps even me to see what their larger views and thoughts are on faith.”

O’Brien appreciates seeing interviewees express themselves. “These students have an incredible depth of faith and understanding of who God is in their lives, that I believe they have something to teach us all,” O’Brien said.

Sofia LoSardo ’23 was interviewed for the Faith Friday program and exemplified that depth in her talk with O’Brien.

“I would describe my faith as a reason for me to get out of bed,” she said during her conversation. “It really helps me learn how to trust God. It helps me see what Jesus is in my life. It helps me trust in His plan that He has, because I believe that He has a plan for everyone.”

Dennis Martin ’21 recalled how he was going through the steps for membership and participation in the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) prior to the lockdown. Even though the pandemic delayed his reception of the sacraments, he was thankful for being part of the RCIA program.

“This feels like a natural process,” Martin said of the program. “You’re allowed to critically think about the decisions you make and how you’re applying those. And you’re able to really meditate on those thoughts. You’re able to really let it sink in.”

Even as the world struggled with the pain and suffering brought on by COVID-19, Martin recognized that his journey through RCIA was the perfect first step to unpacking the mysteries of faith.

“There’s something beautiful when it’s an adult who is still trying to figure things out,” he said. “Who does not have all the answers. Who is completely lost just like everybody

continued on page 24
Dominican Connection

else in this world right now and who’s seeking to learn more about their faith and try to apply that in some way that they can.”

In her interview, alumna Danielle Schiavone ’19 talked about serving as a nurse. She works in pediatric ICU, and as COVID-19 cases surged at the hospital, her unit transitioned to caring for critically ill adults, helping to decompress the swamped adult side of intensive care. Schiavone spoke about how vital her faith was as she prepared for whatever came her way each day.

“My faith has always been a tremendous part of what I do,” she said. “I pray every day on my way to work and I pray every day on my way home. If you don’t believe that the power of prayer is going to help you through things, then you’re leaving your faith up to science, which is limited. You’re leaving faith up to your own individual abilities, which is limited. You have to believe in something higher. Even when it’s hard.”

Alumna Christine Millien ’19, a staff member in the EoF office, shared how she relies on God in all aspects of her life even in public speaking. She prays, “God I need you to speak through me.” She says she has an open dialogue with God. “I talk to God like I’m talking to my best friend.”

Thanks to the virtual rosary and Faith Fridays, Caldwell University believers are keeping their connection strong, the thread of faith securing them to each other with a hope that does not shift or change with the circumstances of the world. That connection—that faith—is something we can all believe in.

—Irene Burrell ’09

#Faith

Black Lives Matter Vigil

A candlelight vigil in support of Black Lives Matter was hosted on campus July 21 by Lambda Tau Omega Sorority, Inc., to stand in solidarity against racial injustice and police brutality. Students, faculty and staff, Caldwell Mayor John Kelley, borough council members and members of the Caldwell Police Department attended. The event was emceed by Lambda Tau Omega sister Thara Dambreville; student speakers included Mariano McGaskey (Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.) and Cindy Herrera (Lambda Tau Omega Sorority, Inc.) and Caldwell University president Dr. Matthew Whelan.

Mariano McGaskey, a brother in the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., spoke at the BLM vigil.
Caldwell Athletics Director Corino Selected to Serve on Division II Management Council

Caldwell University Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark A. Corino was selected to serve on the NCAA Division II Management Council as the representative of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.

The Management Council reports directly to the Presidents Council and is charged with recommending administrative policy and regulations that govern the division. The Management Council reviews and acts on recommendations from the Division II committee structure and from Division II representatives to committees with association-wide functions. The council is responsible for appointing Division II representatives to those committees.

“I am extremely honored for the opportunity to serve on the Division II Management Council,” said Corino. “I look forward to working with my colleagues across Division II to improve the student-athlete experience and promote the Division II model.”

The Management Council has 28 members, including one administrator or representative from each of the Division II multisport voting conferences; one administrator or representative of Division II independent institutions (provided there are at least eight Division II independent institutions); two representatives from the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and two at-large positions to help achieve diversity of representation.

Corino, in his 32nd year as Caldwell’s athletics director, is president of the CACC Directors Council and was the CACC Athletics Director of the Year in 2017-18. In addition, he represents the group at the league’s Presidents Council meetings. He has assisted in strategic planning for the conference and has helped spearhead new efforts that will enhance the championship experience for the conference’s student-athletes. Corino previously represented the conference on the DII Athletics Directors Association, made up of athletics directors throughout the country who work with the NCAA on administrative issues.

Corino has served in various roles on regional and national levels. He served on the NCAA Compliance Think Tank National Committee from 2016 to 2018.

Corino was a member of the NCAA All Divisions Men’s Basketball Rules Committee from 2012 to 2016 and was a member of the NCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Regional Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2006 and 2008 to 2012. Corino was part of the ECAC Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014, while serving as the ECAC third vice president from 2010 to 2012 and as second vice president from 2012 to 2014.

In addition to his lengthy list of administrative duties at Caldwell and the CACC, Corino doubles as the university’s men’s basketball coach and is one of the all-time winningest college basketball coaches in New Jersey history. He has won 592 games during his prestigious career, and he was enshrined in the Caldwell Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2018, Corino received the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey’s prestigious Garden State Award, and Caldwell University named the playing court in the George R. Newman Center in his honor. ■

—JT
The women’s bowling team finished their regular season with a 43-54 record. The Cougars were scheduled to compete in the East Coast Conference Championships at the end of March but the championships were cancelled due to the pandemic. Freshman Jenna Rapach (Hazleton, Pennsylvania) earned ECC First Team All-Conference honors as she finished with the second highest overall frames average in the conference. Caldwell ended the year ranked twelfth in the final National Tenpin Coaches Association Division II/III coaches poll of the season.

Men’s basketball finished their season with 12 wins and registered eight victories in Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference play. The season featured two regular season contests against Division I opponents including a trip to Rutgers University in December. The Cougars defeated Norfolk State University 64-54 in the Fort Myers Tip-Off Classic in November. Senior Vaughn Covington (Sicklerville, New Jersey) earned CACC Third Team All-Conference honors after leading the team with 64 assists and 33 steals. Senior Daan Vianen (Nieuwegein, Netherlands) earned CACC All-Academic Team honors, while Vianen and fellow senior Ruud Lutterman (Dalem, Netherlands) were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court.

Women’s basketball ended their season with eight conference wins and finished in third place in the CACC North Division. Senior Tina Lebron (Manalapan, New Jersey) broke the program record for career three-pointers as she finished her career with 237 trifectas. Lebron earned her third CACC All-Academic honor and was joined by graduate Alessia Smaldone (Malnate, Italy) and sophomore Ana Gonzalez Martin (Toledo, Spain) in earning all-academic recognition.

The spring sports of baseball, softball, men’s lacrosse, women’s lacrosse and track and field saw their seasons cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Baseball and softball had just started their seasons over spring break in Florida, playing seven and six games respectively. Women’s lacrosse played four games prior to the cancellation of the season. Men’s lacrosse, competing in their first season, recorded the program’s first victory with an 11-4 victory over American International College on February 29.

—JT
The Caldwell University Athletics Department named Amy Berry to lead the women’s volleyball program. Berry was a four-year standout player at Georgian Court University, a fellow Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference school, and has an extensive background in the volleyball community.

“I would like to thank Mark Corino and Caldwell Athletics for the opportunity to become a part of the Cougar family,” said Berry. “It is an absolute blessing to return to the CACC where I once played as an athlete to now lead a strong program of my own. I am very excited to get this season going!”

Berry has been vice president and director of operations at the Garden State Elite Volleyball Club since 2017. She develops and implements multiple training programs for the club, manages its social media content and coaches at various age levels. Berry previously served as the head women’s volleyball coach at the County College of Morris for three seasons, guiding the Titans to the conference playoffs in each season.

“We are very excited to have Amy Berry lead our women’s volleyball program as its next head coach,” said Corino. “As a former player in the CACC, she has familiarity with the league, and when combined with her previous coaching experience, she has the necessary background to lead our talented program. We expect her to continue the success the program has experienced and remain competitive within the conference.”

Berry has coached volleyball at PowerZone Volleyball Center for two years and was a club coach at the Ocean County Volleyball Club for two years. She served as the interim volleyball coach at Jackson Liberty High School for one season and qualified for both the Shore Conference and state tournaments in 2015.

Berry continues to be active in competitive volleyball as a player. She competes in indoor, grass and beach volleyball and in 9-man volleyball, an Asian form of the game played on concrete.

Berry played for Georgian Court’s volleyball team from 2009 to 2012 and was a member of the women’s track and field team. In volleyball, she was a CACC Second Team All-Conference selection as a senior and finished her career with 993 kills, 667 digs, 89 service aces and 90 total blocks. Berry was a three-year captain for the Lions and was part of their 2009 CACC championship squad. She was a two-time conference champion in the javelin, qualifying for nationals in 2011. Berry was voted the department’s most valuable player in her senior year. In addition, she represented the CACC on the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for three years.

Berry graduated from Georgian Court in 2014 with a degree in exercise science with a concentration in women’s coaching and a minor in psychology.

—JT

Fall 2020 Season Delayed to Spring 2021

The Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference President’s Council announced that intercollegiate competition will not occur during the fall 2020 season due to safety concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The affected sports include men’s and women’s soccer, women’s volleyball, women’s tennis, men’s and women’s cross country and men’s and women’s basketball. The Collegiate Sprint Football League and the East Coast Conference, governing sprint football and women’s bowling respectively, followed with similar announcements to delay the fall seasons to the spring semester.

The conferences are committed to providing the fall and winter student-athletes with meaningful seasons of intercollegiate competition for all fall and winter student-athletes commencing after Jan. 1, 2021.

Regularly scheduled spring sports were not affected by the announcement and will be conducted as scheduled. The decisions are subject to change, and all Cougar fans should follow the latest updates on athletic contests on caldwellathletics.com.
It’s a Tuesday morning, and former Caldwell trustee Dorothy Cunningham ’49 is enjoying a lively chat with current trustee Kathleen Barabas ’85. The next day Anna Nelson ’88 and Lucy Anello ’56 share some of their treasured Caldwell memories as they speak on the phone. During the rest of the week, 14 other alumni are on scheduled phone calls, talking about Caldwell and all manner of topics with fellow graduates they’ve never met. What goes on here?

This group of newfound friends belongs to Caldwell Connect, a program that began as a concept in February. The arrival of the pandemic and physical distancing guidelines made a compelling case for the initiative: It matches alumni volunteers with alumni who are homebound for any reason and want more social contact. It’s an opportunity for those at home to hear university news, enjoy a conversation and build a new relationship. Currently, there are 16 volunteer matches, and organizers plan to expand the program.

Elaine Tweedus ’66, one of the first volunteers in the program, wrote of her experience as a volunteer caller:

“When asked if I would participate, I hesitated. What kind of conversation could I have with a total stranger? The only thing Virginia [her assigned call recipient] and I had in common was that we both had attended Caldwell back when it was Caldwell College for Women! We had graduated in different years and had different majors; our paths had never crossed on campus.

So I nervously phoned Virginia on a Wednesday morning back in April. We chatted for more than an hour and a half! After talking a bit about our Caldwell backgrounds, we discovered that she and my father had worked for the same company and knew some of the same people!

In subsequent conversations, I learned that Virginia had spent her early years in Baltimore, Maryland. My husband and I would go to Baltimore each summer for the colossal Baltimore Antique Show and also visit the museums, the Inner Harbor, and dine at many of the great seafood restaurants. Virginia knew all of them, and we reminisced over the great soft-shell crabs in the springtime, and the lobster imperial at Mois, a Baltimore culinary landmark.

Virginia and I speak every week. We reminisce about our travels in Europe and across the United States. Funny, two people who have never met have shared so many of the same experiences. We have serious conversations, but we laugh a lot too. I’ve welcomed Virginia into my family of friends and look forward to our calls as much as she does.

Caldwell Connect is fulfilling the university’s mission to serve, by creating relationships that are especially comforting and sustaining at this time. At a future time, a special event will be held on campus so that these new friends can share the delight of meeting each other in person.

For more information, email alumni@caldwell.edu or call 973-618-3242.

—Christina Hall
The university will receive a five-year $1.2M NSF DUE Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant for 21 undergraduate students beginning this fall to prepare effective secondary STEM educators (grades 7-12) in local high-need districts. The project, “Building STEM Teachers’ Capacity to Create Authentic and Original Classroom Experiences,” will offer future STEM teachers advanced pedagogy and content training with an educational emphasis on engaging in and teaching STEM. This intervention couples hands-on STEM teaching via early field experiences with an innovative and comprehensive educational approach called the CREATE to EDUCATE initiative. This initiative will partner scholars with CU faculty to develop multimedia STEM instructional materials to be used during their field placements and in-service teaching.

Dr. William Velhagen, associate dean of the School of Natural Sciences and a biology professor, says they are excited to have been awarded this grant, which will help students become effective science and math teachers at high-needs school districts.

“We hope that having great teachers will lead to more students choosing careers in STEM.” He will head an interdisciplinary faculty team that includes Dr. Edith Ries, professor of education; Dr. Patrick Sime, professor of mathematics, and Dr. Marisa Castronova ’18, educational researcher.

The project team will study how well new interventions help commuter students to develop meaningful relationships with resident students and with faculty. Team members anticipate that the project will generate new knowledge about the impact of supplemental instruction on commuter students’ science identity, retention, degree attainment and career choices. Findings can help other colleges nationwide to better support the success of STEM commuting students.
Leadership and Empathy in Action:
Tanya Freeman ’08, Esq.

In 2008—nearly 20 years past what she had planned for, Tanya Freeman graduated from Caldwell College. “God determines the path of our lives,” she says.

She grew up with four siblings in a family headed by a single father, who had big dreams for his children and impressed upon them the value of education. Despite his lack of formal education, he nevertheless encouraged all his children to learn, grow, and achieve. His vision for Freeman, which became her dream when she was eight years old, was for her to become an attorney.

The challenges Freeman’s family faced when she was a child brought about financial hardships that placed her on a non-traditional path to college. Tragedy struck when her beloved father died when she was just 14 years old; during the remainder of her adolescence, she was raised by her older siblings and extended family. Freeman credits the lessons her father taught her with helping her to remain focused and resilient.

After high school, Freeman attended Marymount College, but in her junior year had to drop out when she could no longer afford the tuition. She landed a full-time job at a prominent insurance company and her career quickly took off. Then one day she was considered for a promotion, which became her dream when she was eight years old, was for her to become an attorney.

Freeman enrolled at Caldwell College, attending classes on nights and weekends while working full-time and raising six young children. Any student looking for inspiration to achieve a goal need only think of Freeman’s journey.

After graduating cum laude from Caldwell College, Freeman took the next step in fulfilling her dream, when she earned her juris doctorate, cum laude, from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center at Touro College.

Today, Tanya Freeman Law, LLC, located in East Hanover, specializes in family law, including divorce, child and spousal support, child custody, and domestic violence. Freeman’s six children now range from age 13 to 30; three of her children have graduated from college and two have master’s degrees.

For her dedication to advocacy, family, service, and community, Freeman has received numerous awards. In 2014, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie appointed Freeman to Newark’s University Hospital Board of Directors, for which she now serves as Chair of the Board. She was named Family Lawyer of the Year by the Hudson County Bar Association in 2016.

In 2018, Freeman received Caldwell University’s June Dwyer Castano Veritas Award, its highest alumni honor, for Excellence in Law and Family Services. In 2019 she established the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Student Emergency Fund to provide financial support for unexpected and emergent needs to students enrolled in the EOF program.

Natalia Tomczyk ’20, one of the many students who benefited from Freeman’s generosity shared, “Due to the EOF Student Emergency Fund, I was able to graduate this semester and finally become the nurse I’ve dreamed to be and help others during these difficult times. I am ever so grateful and can’t wait to change the world.”

EOF program students come from difficult socioeconomic backgrounds. Due to a lack of financial security, these students often face obstacles that can prevent them from remaining in school. Considering her struggles as a young woman, Freeman hopes to serve as a role model and mentor to students from financially challenged backgrounds. She has been a motivational speaker at several EOF events and is providing mentorship to an EOF student who aspires to a law career. In the current COVID-19 crisis, the EOF Student Emergency Fund has become a vital source of support.

—Christina Hall
Lessons Learned from Traveling the Globe: Barbara McFadden ’82

“Do what you can. Where you are. With what you have.” This quote might serve as Barbara McFadden’s mantra. Nearly four decades after graduating from Caldwell, she continues to live the values she learned here as a student and, as such, is a steward of the university’s mission. In a gesture of gratitude to Caldwell, she recently established the McFadden Scholarship to help support a returning student this year.

A native of Cranford, New Jersey, McFadden is a mother of four and is an ESL teacher. She has wide-ranging interests, chief among them travel. From Ireland to Australia, to walking 500 miles on the Camino Santiago pilgrimage in Spain, McFadden continues to find fascination and inspiration in learning about other peoples and cultures.

A relentless enthusiast, McFadden naturally said yes when, in July of 2019, a friend invited her to go on a trip to Uganda sponsored by their church. Nine other parishioners formed a group that made the journey to Soroti, Uganda, to teach the students of St. Ann’s Madera Girls’ Primary School.

Traveling to a third world country is vastly different from making a trip to a European country, notes McFadden. Her group had to arrange for hepatitis A and yellow fever vaccinations and received prescription antimalarial medication, all while pondering the 7,700 miles of air they had to travel.

Leaving the U.S., McFadden and her travel partners made the 15-hour trip to Dubai; the next leg, to Entebbe, Uganda, took six and a half hours. After a one-night stay at a seminary in Kampala, the group boarded a van for the eight-hour ride to Soroti. Upon their arrival, they were greeted by the sweet sounds of hundreds of barefoot students singing songs of welcome.

McFadden and her group taught in classrooms jammed with nearly 100 girls apiece; despite stifling heat, there were no fans, let alone air conditioners. The girls had only two dresses each—one for school, one for play. They went barefoot, had to make do without books and wrote with pencils worn to the nub. Their heads were shaved to protect them from lice.

Yet the girls never complained, despite sitting shoulder to shoulder on wooden benches while attending classes six days a week, including an evening class. At the end of each class, they rose, saying in unison, “Thank you for teaching us. May God bless you!”

McFadden and her group were housed on the school campus in spartan dorms located a few feet from the classrooms. They fell asleep at midnight beneath mosquito netting, serenaded by the girls’ singing, and awoke to their joyful morning songs. McFadden’s group visited the nearby nursery school, the National School for the Blind and a local girls high school. They enjoyed delicious meals that included fruits and vegetables grown on the school grounds, along with rice and free-range chicken.

As the volunteer teachers worked with the students, they noticed that the girls were fascinated by all things American, including cell phones, on which they could see their images. The girls peppered the teachers with a raft of questions, such as: “Can you sing your national anthem?” “Please tell us about slavery in the United States.” “Where do you live?” and “Who is Harry Potter?”

At the end of their two-week stay, McFadden and her group left Soroti before dawn for the trip back to Kampala and the long flight home to the U.S. She took with her a treasure trove of warm memories; she left the contents of her two suitcases in Soroti, returning to the U.S. with just the clothes on her back. McFadden regrets that she didn’t bring an extra carry-on stuffed with books for the students she met.

“Sometimes it’s good to get out of your ZIP code to see how others live and struggle for survival,” says McFadden. “The necessities of life are almost impossible to obtain in Uganda. I think about the girls, now returning to their homes, with very little to keep them healthy in this global pandemic. The lack of health care, medications, good sanitation, literacy and employment [are all pressing issues].” She says the lessons she learned in Soroti remain in her mind to this day.

—Christina Hall
Alumni Director Receives Irish Echo’s 40-UNDER-40 AWARD

Director of Donor and Alumni Engagement Meghan Moran ’07 was honored with a 40-Under-40 award by the Irish Echo on Feb. 21.

The awards recognize those individuals who are under 40 and have through their careers brought pride to themselves, their families, their communities, Ireland, Irish America and the United States of America.

Moran and the 39 honorees were celebrated at the Manhattan Club at Rosie O’Grady’s.

The Rutherford, New Jersey, resident has held several positions in higher education at Caldwell since she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2007. She has worked in Admissions, Campus Ministry, Student Life and now in Alumni Affairs where she engages and builds relationships with alumni of all ages. “My journey through higher education at my alma mater has been such a blessing in my life. I have had the opportunity to make connections with many wonderful students and alumni over the years,” said Moran.

She learned more about what it means to be Irish when she was 19 years old and worked as a nanny for an Irish family in Rutherford. The family “took me in as their own,” Moran said, and from that she learned to “cherish the Irish tradition of welcoming others into your home, sharing a story and becoming family.”

Moran is grateful that her parents, Deborah and Daniel, believed in the importance of Catholic education and sent her and her brother and two sisters to Catholic schools. That background, Moran said, taught her to cherish community and to recognize the importance of giving back. When she is not engaging with alumni, planning events or writing enewsletters, Moran is a trustee for the Rutherford Irish American Association and coaches sixth-grade CYO basketball at St. Mary’s in Rutherford.

As Irish Echo president Ray O’Hanlan wrote, “The winners bring pride to the story of the Irish in America, and indeed of the Irish around the world.” Congratulations, Meghan. You bring great pride to Caldwell University.

Distance Learning Brought His Dream Up Close: Rocco L. Miscia Jr. ’01

There’s a saying that everything old is new again. Although remote learning has become a successful method for instruction during the pandemic, it’s important to note that the university was on the vanguard of distance learning way back in 1996 when it was known as Caldwell College.

That year, when Rocco L. Miscia Jr. enrolled in the Alternate Route Program, he had already earned an associate’s degree at a community college, in 1981, and 15 credits from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he trained. He had worked as a police officer in his hometown of Montclair for 19 years before he attended a presentation on the external degree program at Caldwell. Once he realized he could take online classes while still working full time, his goal of completing a bachelor’s degree and becoming a police captain seemed attainable. Thanks to the flexibility of online classes, which were not widely available elsewhere at the time, Miscia took his first four classes at Caldwell College completely online, finding the kind of work-life balance he needed to achieve his dream and set an example for his then 5-year-old daughter.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at Caldwell College, he went on to earn a master’s in administrative science from Fairleigh Dickinson University. In 2002, after retiring as a police captain, he became director of the Essex County College Public Safety Academy, where he worked for 14 years. Last year, he was recruited by Morris County Prosecutor Fredric Knapp to become his chief of staff. Miscia previously served as an adjunct faculty member in Caldwell University’s Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Miscia says Caldwell provided a supportive environment that helped nontraditional students assimilate, and he is grateful for the external degree program, an innovation that benefited adult students with busy professional and personal schedules. “The faculty and staff were understanding, helpful and accommodating in getting me back into the education mode after a 15-year hiatus,” he says. “Not only the education but the encouragement I received at Caldwell helped me decide to continue my education and earn my graduate degree.”

—Christina Hall
Dear Fellow Alumni,

We are all adjusting to new faces, new environments and, in many cases, new ways of life as 2020 unfolds before us.

We bid adieu to Dr. Nancy Blattner in June and thank her for her numerous accomplishments and contributions to Caldwell University. We welcomed the arrival of Dr. Matthew Whelan to our campus as Caldwell University’s ninth president! Dr. Whelan hails from New Jersey and has held various positions in the academic world, most recently as the vice president for university enrollment strategy and relationship development at Stony Brook University in New York. Let’s all extend a Caldwell welcome to Dr. Whelan and support him in his new position.

I would also like to welcome the Class of 2020 to the ranks of Caldwell University alumni and encourage you to participate in the activities of the Alumni Association. We are so glad to have you join us! Please reach out to the Office of Alumni Affairs with any questions that may arise.

And as we try to work our way through the difficulties and challenges that have come to define 2020 as an unprecedented year in world history, it would be gratifying to acknowledge the many initiatives that Caldwell University has undertaken to manage and ease the effects of the health crisis brought on by the coronavirus. Our Development Office has set up an emergency fund for students who may need some help at this time, and Campus Ministry has also set up a food drive for students and their families. On our champions page, we are proud to highlight the stories of our nursing and public health students and faculty who are on the front lines responding to COVID-19. We are so grateful for the dedication and professionalism demonstrated in these initiatives. Thank you! Please stay safe, everyone.

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie ’73
President, Alumni Association
HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEK

will be going virtual this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We can’t wait to welcome you back to campus when it’s safe for us to do so, but in the meantime, we will celebrate online! Check out the alumni website or social media for a full list of virtual events!

Visit caldwell.edu/alumni/homecoming or contact mmoran@caldwell.edu for more information.