

SUMMER 2013 • VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 02

CABRINI

MAGAZINE

CLASS OF
2013



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MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To the Cabrini College Community,

We are at a unique point in the 56-year history of our beloved Cabrini College. With the resignation last month of Marie Angelella George, Ph.D., after five years as president, the Board of Trustees moved swiftly to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership.

Deb Takes, Chair of the Board since 2011, relinquished that role to accept the position of Interim President of the College. I was elected Chair of the Board, and Frank Emmerich, Esq. '92 was elected Vice Chair. The entire Board is committed to supporting the Cabrini College community, and Deb has pledged that all voices will be heard as we move the College forward.

As Cabrini's seventh president, Dr. George set the priority of providing students a global education focusing on academic excellence, leadership development, and social justice. She oversaw implementation of *Justice Matters*, the College's groundbreaking core curriculum that engages all students in real-world, community-based problem solving.

During her tenure, Cabrini doubled the number of Living and Learning Communities to six, and developed an expanded First-Year Experience to optimize the engagement of incoming students. Cabrini College led the nation with an affordability plan that reduced tuition and fees by 12.5 percent for the 2012–13 academic year and pledged to limit increases through May 2015.

In a message to the campus community, Dr. George wrote, "Working with all of you over the past five years has enriched my life and filled my heart with joy. Together, we have accomplished so much, and it is time for me to move on."

All of us on the Board thank Dr. George for her service to Cabrini and wish her every success in her

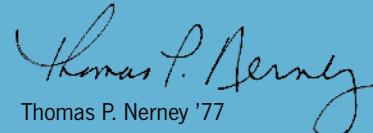
future endeavors. We have undertaken a national search to find Cabrini College's next president.

We are fortunate to have as Interim President a person with leadership skills and a history of success in leading organizations. Former chairman and chief executive officer of First Priority Bank, Deb holds a bachelor of science in economics from Vassar College and a master's degree in the science of management from Rosemont College. She served on the boards of First Priority Bank, First Priority Financial Corporation, Harleysville National Bank, Harleysville National Corporation, and numerous community groups.

Deb was a featured speaker at Cabrini's 2009 Women's Leadership Conference, and received the 2009 Cresset Award from Rosemont, where she leads the college's Business Advisory Board. In 2010, she was named Woman of the Year by Montgomery County Community College for her efforts in developing a partnership program between industry and the College to train women entrepreneurs.

Cabrini truly is a special place, and we are fortunate to have talented students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We are confident that with our shared commitment and dedication, we will continue to "do something extraordinary" in the days and years ahead.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Nerney".

Thomas P. Nerney '77
Chair, Board of Trustees

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FOLLOW US

Find Cabrini College departments, teams, clubs, students, and alumni on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and blogs.



For a list of social media accounts: www.cabrini.edu/socialmedia

Cabrini Magazine is moving online!

Cabrini Magazine will be shifting from its current print format to being an online-only magazine. The summer 2013 issue will be the last to print. The more cost-effective medium will promote the magazine's sustainability.

To receive notification via email and to receive updates, complete the sign-up form at www.cabrini.edu/magazine.

MAGAZINE CABRINI

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On the Cover:

Members of the Class of 2013 display their decorated graduation caps.
Left to right: Emma McNamara, Marcelle Crist, Sarah Luckert and Chelbi Mims

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Four Elected to Board of Trustees

In May, the Board of Trustees elected former Trustee Joan M. Buzzallino '66 and three new members to the board: Paul Ridder, William Stemper and Joel Zazyczny '89.

Joan M. Buzzallino '66, retired IBM executive, rejoins the board after serving for nine years. This year she received Cabrini's Ivy Young Willis Award, which recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions in the field of public affairs. She endowed the Buzzallino Family Faculty Fund at Cabrini in 2005, and also established a scholarship that provides a global experience to a student who otherwise couldn't afford it, which was awarded for the first time in 2011–12.

Paul Ridder has been president of Tasty Baking Company, the manufacturer of Tastykakes, since May 2011, and served as the senior vice president and chief financial officer for the company from 2007–11. Tasty Baking Company was bought last year by Flowers Foods, expanding Philadelphia-favorite Tastykake into a national brand. An active member of the community, Ridder serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Moyer Foundation, and the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Bucknell University, a Master of Business Administration from the Villanova School of Business at Villanova University, and is a certified public accountant.

William Stemper is president of Comcast Business Services at Comcast Corporation in Philadelphia, a position he has held since 2006. This unit of Comcast provides businesses with

telecommunications services, including Internet, Ethernet, voice and video. Under his leadership, Comcast Business has become the second fastest growing part of Comcast Cable, becoming a \$2.4 billion business in 2012. Stemper has more than 30 years of leadership experience, and previously served as vice president of Cox Business Services at Cox Communications in Atlanta. He received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Joel Zazyczny '89 is vice president of Silanes, Silicones & Metal-Organics at Gelest Inc., based in Morrisville, Pa., a manufacturer of silane, silicone, and metal-organic compounds serving advanced technology markets. He is responsible for managing and leading overall business operations, including strategic development, product management, marketing, and global distribution. Previously, Zazyczny held key positions with Hüls America, Polar Minerals and Imerys Performance Minerals. He holds patents for six inventions, and has authored and co-authored numerous articles in professional publications. Zazyczny graduated from Cabrini College with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Bachelor of Arts in English/Communications, and completed coursework toward a Master of Science in Chemistry at Saint Joseph's University. He has remained an active member of the Cabrini College Alumni Association, volunteering for Alumni Weekend planning, Phonathon and, in the 1990s, through his service on the Alumni Board of Directors.



Joel Zazyczny '89



Paul Ridder



Joan M. Buzzallino '66



William Stemper

Mace Receives Lindback Award

Darryl Mace, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of the history and political science department, received the 2013 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, an honor awarded at institutions of higher learning in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Mace earned bachelor's degrees in history and speech communications from Pennsylvania State University, and a graduate certificate in women's studies and a doctorate from Temple University.

Over his eight years at Cabrini College, Mace has created six courses, including "Spike Lee's America" and "The Struggle for Black Equality." He directed the development of two tracks in the History major and the restructuring of the American Studies major, and he led the push for the creation of the Black Studies minor, which will launch this fall. He also contributed to the development of online and blended learning experiences.

Since its inception in fall 2007, Mace has served as faculty fellow for the Voices of Justice Living and Learning Community (LLC) at Cabrini, a program in which a group of first-year students live in the

same residence hall and engage in American culture and the politics of everyday life. Mace is academic advisor for the students in the LLC.

He has received research grants from several organizations, and used these opportunities to fund student collaborative research, including the project "How Race and Gender Are Framed in Local News Coverage." He has sponsored numerous undergraduate presentations derived from these projects.

In addition to having several published scholarly works, Mace is also under contract with the University Press of Kentucky to publish a monograph, "In Remembrance of Me: Regional Stories, Racial Dispositions, and the Legacy of the Emmett Louis Till Lynching."

The Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, funded by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation of Philadelphia, provides grants to institutions of higher education for the promotion of teaching excellence, and recognizes academic excellence and outstanding teaching. At Cabrini, it is presented every other year.



Provost Anne Skleder and President Marie George present the 2013 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching to Darryl Mace, Ph.D., chair of the history and political science department.

Faculty Receive College Awards

Three faculty members—James Hettke, Ph.D., Nicholas Jacques, and Cathy Yungmann—were honored at the Faculty Research and Scholarship Reception on May 2.

Hettke, professor of history and political science, and Jacques, assistant professor of studio art, are the 2013 recipients of the Buzzallino Faculty Scholarship. They received the award for "fostering a climate of lifelong learning and enriching the intellectual life of the campus."

Established by Joan M. Buzzallino '66, retired vice president for human resources for manufacturing and sales at IBM Corporation, and a Trustee of Cabrini College, the Buzzallino Family Faculty Scholarship recognizes and rewards faculty members who are dedicated to academic excellence and outstanding undergraduate teaching and who carry out the vision and spirit of Cabrini College on a daily basis.



Cathy Yungmann

Yungmann, associate professor of communication at Cabrini College, received the 2013 Rose and Raymond Green Faculty Award.

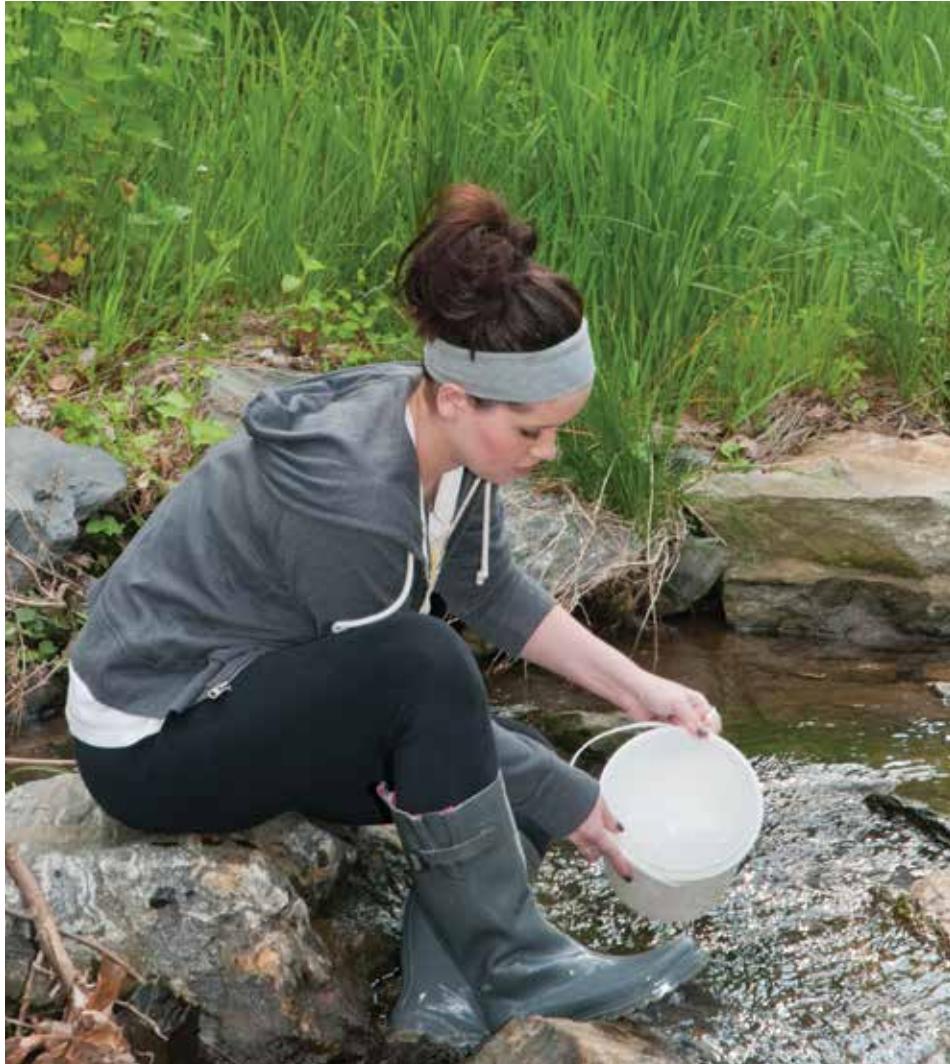
The Rose and Raymond Green endowment was established by Frank and Carol-Rae Sodano, to be awarded in memory of her mother, Rose Basile Green, a beloved professor and first chair of the English department at Cabrini College, and her father, Raymond S. Green, who enjoyed a lifetime career in broadcasting. The endowment annually funds an award to promote the professional development of faculty who teach English and/or Communication.

For more information about each recipient, visit www.cabrini.edu/faculty and click the links their respective departments.

Cabrini Receives National Recognition for Community Service

Cabrini College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the sixth time. It is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll selects colleges and universities based on the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service learning permeates the curriculum, the school's commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and the measurable community outcomes of the service.



This year, Cabrini was recognized for several programs benefiting the local community, including the College's partner city of Norristown, Pa.:

- Students mentored Latino students in the Norristown Area School District to encourage them to graduate and find career or college opportunities;
- Faculty, staff and students participated in the Helping Hands Across America food drive, collecting more than 1,550 pounds of food for the Catholic Social Services Food Pantry in Norristown; and
- Students worked with Valley Creek Restoration Partnership, engaging in community-based research to enhance the local natural environment. Since Crabby Creek had lost its large population of brook trout most likely due to a hurricane, students helped reintroduce the trout to the creek. Students also planted native trees and shrubs along the banks of the creek, among other projects.

The College estimates that, each year, Cabrini students log more than 12,000 hours of service to the local and global communities.

The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

Student engages the local natural environment at Crabby Creek.

Cabrini Night at the Phillies Tickets, T-shirts

On Friday, Sept. 6, join Cabrini students, alumni, faculty, staff, families and friends to cheer the Philadelphia Phillies to victory against the Atlanta Braves at 7:05 p.m. The eighth annual Cabrini College Night at the Phillies features the Cabrini College Chorus singing the National Anthem and the Cabrini Dance Team with the Phillie Phanatic. All fans 15 and older will receive a Cabrini College/Phillies knit cap at the game.

Cabrini Night Tickets

Seating with fellow Cabrini College supporters is offered in three areas of Citizens Bank Park: Pavilion sections 201-202 (\$24 per ticket, online); Pavilion Deck sections 304 (\$14 per ticket, online) and sections 307-310 (\$22 per ticket, online). There is a \$2 per ticket fee. (Price reflects a discount of \$6 off the standard individual game price.)



Faculty and alumni enjoy happy hour before the 2012 Cabrini Night at the Phillies.

To order, visit www.phillies.com/cabrini, click on the "Buy Tickets" button and enter the promotion code CABRINI. In order to minimize the impact of the "per order" charge, it may be worthwhile to combine orders with friends and family. Tickets are based on availability, so order now!



T-shirts

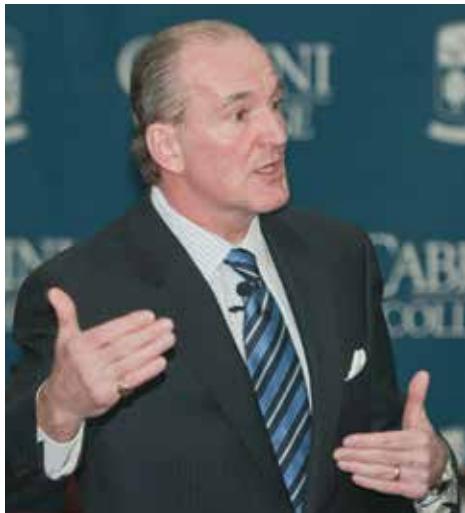
Custom-designed Cabrini Night at the Phillies T-shirts are available in adult sizes (small–XXL), while supplies last, to all Cabrini alumni, family, faculty, staff, and friends who hold tickets to the Sept. 6, 2013, game. www.cabrini.edu/phillies



Alumni Happy Hour

Before the game, members of the Cabrini community are invited to a happy hour at Broad Street Bullies Pub at XFINITY Live! Tickets are \$20 per person for bar fare and two drinks, 5–7 p.m. To register for the alumni happy hour, visit www.cabrini.edu/alumniphillies or contact the Alumni Office (alumni@cabrini.edu or 610-902-8212).

Nerney Leadership Institute Prepares New Era of Cabrini Leaders



Thomas P. Nerney '77

This fall Cabrini College will launch the Nerney Leadership Institute, combining new programs with existing programs to prepare students to be leaders in their fields, communities and personal lives.

The announcement came before 150 students, alumni, Trustees, faculty and staff at an April leadership celebration in Grace Hall Atrium. The Institute's namesake and the celebration's keynote speaker, Thomas P. Nerney '77, is Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of USLI, an insurance company in Wayne, Pa., that employs more than 40 Cabrini alumni. Nerney was elected chair of Cabrini's Board of Trustees in June.

Nerney is known at his company for using the term "Ollin," which he explained as "jumping in heart first." Just as Cabrini College provides students with an "Education of the Heart," Nerney says that the new Institute will help students "lead from the heart."

The Nerney Leadership Institute comprises curricular and co-curricular programs for undergraduate and graduate students, including

several that will start this fall—a Leadership Studies minor, degree completion program in Leadership Studies, an Executive-in-Residence program, and three new concentrations in the renamed Master of Science in Leadership program: civic, non-profit, and organizational leadership.

A search is underway for an executive director for the Institute. Once in place, the executive director will help form an Advisory Council of corporate, non-profit and academic leaders to assist with an Executive-in-Residence program and an internship program.

As part of the Executive-in-Residence program, Cabrini plans to invite executives in the corporate and non-profit sectors for one- or two-day on-campus residencies where they will meet with students, faculty and staff about leadership.

Over the next two years, the Nerney Leadership Institute will implement a curriculum and secure additional internships that will challenge



students to explore, through self-awareness, their proclivity toward leadership. Students will have opportunities for real-world experience in local profit, government, and non-profit organizations.

"I hope over time the Nerney Leadership Institute can, in some small way, give each Cabrini student the push they need to begin to focus on themselves, and to learn to believe and to be grateful for what they have, where they are, and who they are," Nerney said.

For more information, contact Mary Harris, Ph.D., at 610-902-8765 or mharris@cabrini.edu.



Following the announcement of the Nerney Leadership Institute, Thomas Nerney '77 reconnects with his former Cabrini professors. From left: Anthony Tomasco, Ph.D., chair and professor of psychology; Jerry Zurek, Ph.D., chair and professor of communication; Joseph Romano, professor of philosophy; Thomas P. Nerney '77; Sharon Schwarze, Ph.D., chair and professor of philosophy; Dorothy McKenna Brown, former professor of biology and academic dean; Jolyon P. Girard, professor emeritus of history and political science; Kathleen Daley-McKinley, Ph.D., chair and professor of sociology.



Alexis Zavawski '14 and Abiu Santos '13 participated in a number of projects during the 2013 spring break immersion trip to Guatemala.

Grant Allows Cabrini to Expand Horizons in Global Education

Cabrini has received a \$165,111 grant over a two-year period from the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages program of the Department of Education to develop, implement and assess global education programs that impact Cabrini College undergraduate students, and also faculty and staff.

The federal award supports a transformational project at Cabrini that will provide more opportunities for learning foreign languages and for travel. It will fund 66 percent of the total project costs of \$251,480, with the remaining 34 percent covered by non-governmental funds.

The three main components of the project, "Engaging the World: Increasing Global Competencies at Cabrini College," are:

- Strengthen international and global dimensions of the *Justice Matters* core curriculum
- Expand and improve offerings in foreign languages
- Enhance the international competence and experience of Cabrini faculty and staff

"Enhancing global education and increasing international experiences continues to be a

priority at Cabrini as we seek to fulfill our mission to educate 'engaged citizens of the world,'" says Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., dean for academic affairs.

Cabrini students already learn about global social problems and social justice issues through Engagements with the Common Good (ECG) classes within the *Justice Matters* curriculum, but now, Cabrini is taking global education to the next level.

To strengthen the international dimension of the *Justice Matters* curriculum, 11 Cabrini faculty members are working on the development and redesign of six ECG courses; new student immersion experiences in Central and Latin America and the Swaziland region in Africa; and an international experience for ECG senior capstone projects.

Through the grant, many students now have the opportunity to take intermediate Spanish courses catered to their major or field of interest, opening doors to more job opportunities both in the U.S. and around the globe. Cynthia Halpern, Ph.D., chair of the romance languages and literatures department, has created these courses for teachers, translators, travelers, and professionals in business, social services, and health care.

"Given the demographics today, students with skills in Spanish are more employable; students realize now more than ever, that they need to become culturally competent citizens to navigate our ever-shrinking world," Halpern says.

In spring 2013, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages Raquel Green, Ph.D., taught an intermediate Spanish course for health care professionals, and in fall, Associate Professor of Romance Languages Nick Uliano, Ed.D., will teach a new "Spanish for Teachers" course tailored for education majors.

Student Nicole Broccolino '16, who had the opportunity to take the intermediate Spanish course with Green last semester, says that she feels the course gave her more confidence.

"This class helped to prepare me for understanding and reacting to certain situations I most certainly will encounter in my job, which will undoubtedly set me aside from competitors in my career field," Broccolino says.

Students aren't the only ones who benefit from new foreign language courses. In spring 2013, 22 staff and faculty had the opportunity to participate in conversational Spanish classes. The popular class, which resumes in the fall, even has a wait list.

Faculty also will have the opportunity to enhance their international competency through seminars and training experiences in the U.S. and abroad, and new international partnerships for immersion experiences and study abroad programs.

In Brief

Nine students majoring in psychology presented posters at the Eastern Sociological Association Poster Session in Boston in March. **Kathleen McKinley, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of sociology, and **Andrew Owen, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of sociology, accompanied the students.



Shirley Dixon '84, G'89 for her service to the community, and honored at an awards banquet in March in the Grand Ballroom at First District Plaza. At Cabrini, Dixon was the first African American to serve on the College's Board of Trustees (1990–96).

The May issue of *Today's Dietician* magazine featured Cabrini College's "Meatless Monday," which is cosponsored by Dining Services at Cabrini. The article noted some of the College's programs for Meatless Monday, emphasizing expanded vegetarian offerings.



Leonard Norman Primiano, Ph.D., shares his research with **Susan Pierson, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of education.

An article on www.broadcastnewsroom.com and [Media Patch.com](http://MediaPatch.com) reported that Allied Pixel won a Silver Telly Award for Cabrini College's promotional video shown on Phanavision at Citizens Bank Park during Cabrini Night at the Phillies last year.

Howard Holden, director of facilities at Cabrini, was featured as "Howard Holden is Radnor's Keeper of the Trees" in *Main Line Suburban Life*. Holden is chairman of the Radnor Township Shade Tree Commission.



Andrew Owen, Ph.D., (left) speaks with **Joseph Romano**, professor of philosophy.

Andrew Owen, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, was quoted in a phillyburbs.com article, "Second amendment rights in focus at gun show and violence symposium." Owen spoke at the Valley Forge Gun Show in April, alongside members of area law enforcement agencies.



Tom Stretton, Ed.D.

Tom Stretton, Ed.D., assistant professor of education and artistic director of the Cabrini College Theatre, was quoted in an article, "Gala Concert to Celebrate 50 Years of Cheltenham Musical

Theater," on the website for *Citizen's Call*, www.citizenscall.net. The theater at Cheltenham High School is named for Stretton and his wife, Kay.

Main Line Suburban Life reported that **Gregory Santulli**, who is expected to complete a bachelor's degree in December 2013, received the honor of Outstanding Senior by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and Cabrini College. **Ann Servey**, associate professor of accounting at Cabrini, nominated Santulli for the award.

The recent graduation from Cabrini College of **Marissa Andretti '13**, granddaughter of retired world champion racing driver Mario Andretti, was mentioned in an article in the *Indianapolis Star*.

M.L. "Candi" Corbin Sicoli, Ph.D., professor *emerita* of psychology, presented her research on the founders of animal welfare/rights organizations at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta in April.



Rick Tumminello '13

Students **Trevor Cross '14**, **Deborah (DJ) Moran '14**, and **Rick Tumminello '13** presented research at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Cross and Moran's presentation was "Proteogenomics-Based Refinement of Mycobacteriophage Genomes" and Tumminello's presentation was "Heat Shock Induces ROS Production and Histone Phosphorylation in Coelomocytes of *Eisenia hortensis*."

Deborah (DJ) Moran '14 was selected to participate in the 2013 American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program this summer. The fellowship is aimed at highly competitive students who wish to pursue graduate careers in microbiology. Moran will have the opportunity to conduct full-time research at Cabrini with an ASM member and present research results at the ASM General Meeting the following year.

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) has named Cabrini Associate Professor of Communication **Cathy Yungmann** the 2013 Small Programs Interest Group (SPIG) Scholarship of Application Winner for her entry titled "A Prototype for Global Student Journalism: Covering Conflict Without Going There Media." Yungmann will be a featured panelist at the AEJMC conference this summer in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Farina '15 presented her work to more than 400 faculty, administrators and fellow students at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Alliance (SEA PHAGES) Poster Competition, and earned first place out of nearly 100 students from across the country.

Graduate Programs

Accounting • Education • Leadership

Cabrini College prepares students for successful careers. Whether you want to become a teacher, change your career or be a better leader in your field, Cabrini can help you advance to the next level.



Upcoming Open Houses

August 8
September 5
October 2

New! Master of Accounting

The 18-month accredited Master of Accounting is a pathway to a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) qualification. Designed to meet the needs of recent accounting graduates and working professionals who need to fulfill 150 credits to become a CPA, or to earn Continuing Professional Education credits, students will gain an understanding of the professional practice of accounting, auditing and taxation.

Master of Science in Leadership: Choose from with three concentrations:

- Organizational Leadership
- Non-Profit Leadership
- Civic Leadership

Master of Education

Teacher Certifications in five areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Pre-K-Grade 4 Education | • Reading Specialist |
| • Secondary Education | • Principal/Administrative I |
| • Special Education | |

Fall semester starts
August 26

Cabrini Announces Degree Completion Program

The Degree Completion Program allows you the most flexible and convenient way to finish your degree. Cabrini's Bachelor of Arts in Leadership Studies adds value to any career or field. Online, evening and weekend courses allow you to learn at your own pace. If you have an associate's degree, you can complete the program in 18-24 months.

Information:
610-902-8556 or
www.cabrini.edu/dcp

For more information: **610-902-8500**
or www.cabrini.edu/graduate



Cabrini's 53rd Commencement



Rainy weather didn't dampen the spirit of the Class of 2013 at Cabrini College's 53rd Commencement on May 19.

Mace Bearer and Professor of English Marilyn Johnson, Ph.D., and the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band led the procession of graduates to the Commencement tent on the Upper Athletic Field, which was packed with families and friends.

During the 10 a.m. undergraduate ceremony, Alumni Association President Craig Vagell '05 presented the Mother Ursula Award to Mary Kate Miller '13 of Willow Street, Pa. Named for the founder of the College, the Mother Ursula Award is given to a student who the senior class believes has best fulfilled the ideals of the College.

Darryl Mace, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of the history and political science department, accepted the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, which Cabrini awards every other year to a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching as selected by the faculty.

Valedictorian Cathy Matta '13, of East Hartford, Conn., addressed classmates about the core values of a Cabrini College education: respect, vision, community, and dedication to excellence.

"While reflecting on these values, it is easy to see that education of the heart stems from the core value of community," said Matta, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. "Clearly, the faculty and staff actively extend a spirit of community to the students, but equally important are the communities we build ourselves. It may seem cliché, but we've found our bridesmaids, our godfathers, our travel companions, and our homes away from home here."



Cabrini conferred bachelor's degrees on more than 300 undergraduates, and an honorary doctorate on Commencement speaker James J. Maguire Sr., chairman *emeritus* and founder of Philadelphia Insurance Companies.

He spoke about how, as a 20-year-old college-flunk-out, he learned discipline after being drafted for the Korean War. When he returned, he was given a second chance to attend college. It was his newfound discipline to persevere that earned Maguire a degree from Saint Joseph's University.

"You see, I am dyslexic, which was not widely understood back in the '40s and '50s," Maguire said. "I failed multiple times in grade school, high school and I flunked out of college because of this learning disability, so graduation for me was a victory over dyslexia and a classic example of perseverance."

In the early '70s, Maguire served on Cabrini's Board of Trustees, which he said consisted of one Jesuit priest and eight nuns, including College foundress Mother Ursula and Sister Mary Louise Sullivan (President of the College 1972-82). Maguire became the first lay chair of the board.

"I remember the first time I looked at the financial statements, I quickly realized that Cabrini was financially on the bubble," Maguire said. "Mother Ursula told me, 'Mr. Maguire, you shouldn't worry. God will provide!' I responded, 'I certainly agree with you Mother Ursula, but I also know God would not mind if we brought some lay talent to the Board, to help us put some financial meat on the bones of Cabrini College.'"



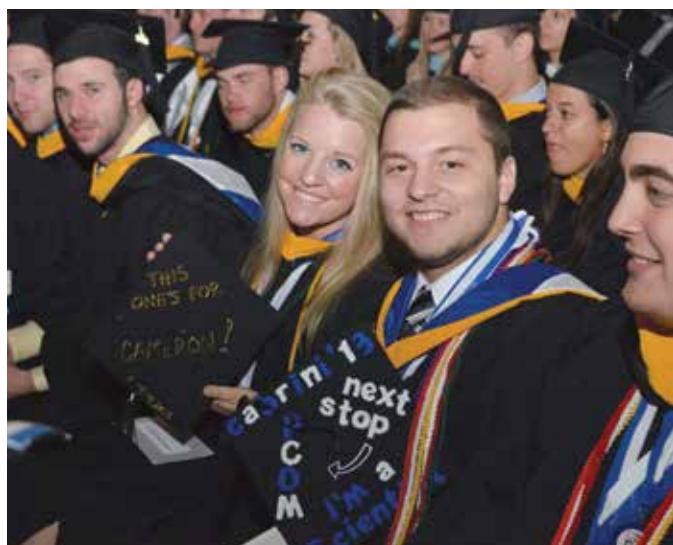
At the 3 p.m. graduate Commencement, John R. McConnell, founder and first president of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, addressed master's degree candidates and received an honorary doctor of humane letters.

He encouraged the graduates to contribute to urban education, because every year McConnell sees the potential of high school students in Philadelphia, many of whom are forced into low-quality high schools because the better schools are not accessible to them, he said.

"Graduates of the Class of 2013, I am excited by the promise of your educated hearts, and your own enormous potential to do good for yourselves and for our community," McConnell said.

Cabrini conferred master's degrees on more than 700 graduates in the afternoon ceremony.

For full texts of Maguire's and McConnell's addresses, and Matta's valedictory, visit www.cabrini.edu/commencement.





Jaiquann Beckham '13

FROM 'OPRAH' TO CABRINI COLLEGE:
JAIQUANN BECKHAM'S EXPERIENCE IS

ANYTHING BUT AVERAGE

By Megan Maccherone



Jaiquann Beckham '13 describes himself as "average," but in the spring of 2009, he had an experience that was anything but average.

In 2009, when he was a senior at Christiana High School in Newark, Del., Beckham and three of his track teammates were contacted to appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago. They knew the episode would address college affordability, but they never guessed what would happen next. The Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am appeared from backstage and told each of the four students that he was giving them full scholarships to the colleges of their choice.

After tears were shed, hugs and handshakes exchanged, and the shock of what happened finally settled in, the four students hurried home—senior prom was the next day.

"I didn't feel like a celebrity," Beckham said, even after his entire school viewed the episode when it aired on May 5, 2009. "We didn't want to get big-headed. We're just average people."

Almost four years to the day when he appeared with his teammates on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," Beckham received a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education at Cabrini's May Commencement. In those four years, he has proven that he is anything but "average."

"When I think of Jaiquann Beckham, the words 'total transformation,' 'growth,' and 'leader' come to mind," says Michelle Filling-Brown, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, Beckham's first-year advisor, and faculty director for the "Realizing Dreams" Living and Learning Community (LLC) at Cabrini.

When Beckham learned from Filling-Brown that participating in an LLC at Cabrini might help him earn better grades, he signed up immediately. He joined the inaugural cohort of the "Realizing Dreams" LLC, in which about 20 first-year students live in the same residence hall, take classes together, and explore topics around the formation of identity, family, education, race, class and gender as it relates to the ability to identify and achieve one's dreams.

"Dr. Filling was right," Beckham says. "I reached my GPA goal freshman year after joining the LLC."

In four years working with Beckham in the Office of Residence Life, Dean of Students George Stroud has watched him grow into a "shining example" for other students. Stroud says that Beckham consistently pushes himself to be better—academically, professionally and personally.

"Although he is an elementary/special education major, Jaiquann has found time to educate himself in the areas of business, finance and higher education," Stroud says. "His self-education in business and finance led to summer internships with financial services companies, including SEI Investments. These internships were valuable yet unusual experiences for an education major and serve as proof of Jaiquann's ability to rise to any challenge."

Over the years, discussions with Stroud about Beckham's formative experiences growing up in Wilmington, Del., helped him realize that he had a responsibility to give back to his community.

"Jaiquann shares his story with inner-city youth and serves as a motivational speaker at various high schools," Stroud says. "He has focused his speeches on the topics of staying in school, getting good grades, and getting involved on campus."

Filling-Brown believes that Beckham symbolizes what it means to be extraordinary at Cabrini. He has taken advantage of the College's many leadership opportunities, from community service to campus jobs to extracurricular activities.

"I see him on campus everywhere," Filling-Brown says. "Whether it is giving tours as a student ambassador, working in residence life, or cheering on our basketball team, he is engaged in campus life and a leader whom other students look up to as a role model."



In April 2013, Jaiquann Beckham '13 was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. At the annual event, Dean of Students George Stroud and President Marie George presented Beckham with the award.

Beckham graduated cum laude on May 19. Inspired by his high school principal, Beckham's goal is to one day lead a school. He recently accepted a summer teaching job in the Christina School District, where he will work with students with severe disabilities, and he hopes to begin work toward a master's degree in education and school leadership in fall.

"When I look back at my time at Cabrini, I realize that I belonged here," Beckham says. "The rigorous liberal arts education that I received at Cabrini College has stimulated me intellectually, built my confidence, and ensured me that I can compete with students of all backgrounds and take on any challenges."



RASHA SHARHAN FOUND 'HOME' AT CABRINI AFTER ESCAPING WAR-TORN IRAQ

By Daniel DiPrinzio



Rasha Sharhan '13 celebrates her graduation with siblings, from left, Reem, Dina and Hayder.

Ten years after Baghdad native Rasha Sharhan escaped from war-ridden Iraq in 2003, she walked in Cabrini College's Commencement ceremony on May 19, 2013 (she completed coursework in December 2012).

Sharhan was only one-year-old when she almost died. It wasn't from the bombs and artillery that shelled Iraq in 1990's Desert Storm. It was contaminated water—a consequence of the war—that led to Sharhan's sickness and the deaths of many children in Iraq.

After the harrowing illness, Sharhan grew up in Baghdad, a city that was crippled economically due to the embargo, but one still rich in culture. A decade after Desert Storm, though, Sharhan and other Iraqis knew their lives were once again about to change.

"Right after 9-11, we knew the war was going to take place," Sharhan said. "We just didn't know when."

Once the U.S. Coalition commenced military operations in March 2003, Sharhan's family gathered whatever belongings they could carry and hurried to their grandparent's house in the middle of Baghdad, in the safer "Green Zone." She recalls her family—she, her parents, three siblings, and her grandparents—huddling in the smallest room in the house, without any windows, as air raid sirens blared.

Soon, though, even her grandparents' house was no longer deemed safe, and the family moved "so many times," Sharhan said. Though attending three different schools wasn't an ideal high school career, Sharhan could at least take comfort in the fact that her family remained in their native land.

That changed, though, once "things got dangerous," Sharhan said. When bombings and kidnappings intensified, Sharhan's family began receiving anonymous threats through text messages. They changed cell phones, but the threats persisted. Sharhan's father was targeted because, as an engineering professor in Baghdad, he was thought to be able to bring a large ransom in a kidnapping. When her father's best friend, another professor at the university, was kidnapped and murdered, the Sharhans decided to flee the country.

They traveled to Jordan, which was the closest country still accepting Iraqi refugees, in 2006. The family thought it was only temporary, that they'd return to Iraq once the war ended. In Jordan, though, the family couldn't get residency and Sharhan's father couldn't find employment. After

failing to secure visas for another Arab country, the Sharhans applied for refugee status, and in six months were able to secure a flight to the United States, where a sponsor they were connected to through friends waited for them in Exton, Pa.

Acquiring refugee status was crucial—of the more than two million Iraqis who have been displaced over the past 10 years, many have not been granted such status. Many Iraqis had to stay in their country or live in camps in Syria.

"I was very scared because I had just left Baghdad," Sharhan said, "and so many of my friends also had to leave, and we were spread out all over the world. I knew that the United States was a different culture, with a different language, and I was jumping into that. But I also knew that this was our only chance."

Since Sharhan had finished her last year of high school in Jordan, she immediately began looking for colleges once she arrived in Exton. Even though she had been taught English since elementary school, she did not speak it in Iraq, and learning to speak the language conversationally took time.

"Things, at first, were so different," she said. "And yet, people here, they were so nice."

She attended Montgomery County Community College from 2008 to 2010 before enrolling at Cabrini in January 2011. It didn't take long for Sharhan to get involved with the College's social justice mission.

"I met the president of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Ambassadors one night, and he talked to me about what they did, and I've been involved ever since."

As a Muslim CRS Ambassador, Sharhan shared her unique perspective with other ambassadors from Cabrini and Villanova University when they collaborated on the "What About Sudan" campaign, which raised awareness of the genocide in Sudan. Most victims of the genocide are Muslim.



Rasha Sharhan '13 (sixth from left) with fellow Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Ambassadors.

"We gathered more than 1,000 signatures from campus community members, and a video produced by Jessica Johnson-Petty '14 and Amanda Cundari '14 appeared on the CNN ireport website before the fall 2012 presidential debates."

Sharhan also led efforts on Fair Trade and Migration, and in 2012, she served as president of the CRS Ambassadors.

"This was my faith coming to life," she said in a *Daily Local News* article. "My Muslim faith and Cabrini's Catholic teachings did not pose a conflict. I found lots of similarities and deep connections, and I embraced the similarities."

Sharhan also served as a classroom coach and math tutor, interned with the CRS office in Radnor, and represented students on the Green Team, comprised of Cabrini faculty, staff and students. Since completing credits necessary for graduation in December 2012, Sharhan has spent the spring 2013 semester at Cabrini as a teaching assistant for basic math courses, as well as tutoring students in the Math Resource Center three days a week.

She plans on attending graduate school in the area, and is considering two different career paths. At first, it was clear to Sharhan that she wanted to earn a master's in applied math and pursue a teaching career in higher education. However, because her work helping others through CRS has been so rewarding, Sharhan may shift her focus to international relations.

"Going through war and coming to the United States has definitely changed my life, but it has also opened my eyes, led me to appreciate what I have, and it continues to motivate me to find ways to help others who are struggling right now in this world."



ENJOYING THE JOURNEY: FINE-TUNING A CAREER FOCUS ON SOCIAL WORK

By Amy Biemiller



Tim Sayles '13 shaves Gregory Robinson '14's head at Cabrini's Relay for Life event in April 2013. The event raised more than \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society.

With a newly minted degree in social sciences in hand, alumnus Tim Sayles '13 is tackling two new adventures, each characterized by rugged paths.

"This summer, I'm looking forward to spending four to six weeks hiking the Appalachian Trail; it's something I've wanted to do for years," says Sayles. "That will largely occupy the extent of my summer vacation, since classes start in August."

Those classes will be at Columbia University, where Sayles will trade his hiking gear for post-graduate studies in social work.

Obtaining a master's degree and doing so at Columbia, is a goal that was influenced by his experiences at Cabrini.

"As I progressed through my course of study at Cabrini, I was inspired by different types of social work," he explains. "I considered doing social work for the homeless. Then I did an internship at Adolescent Advocates, a drug and alcohol outpatient rehab in Rosemont, which redirected that inspiration. But I also was exposed to the career options in research and creating public policy."

While remaining totally engaged in his studies, Sayles also took advantage of the extracurricular activities that Cabrini offered. He played basketball at Cabrini for three seasons, and served as the men's team captain for two years. Despite his aptitude for competitive sports, Sayles was driven to raise awareness about a different kind of sporting event: The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"I first got into Relay for Life my freshman year," says Sayles. "I was a team captain."

For Sayles, who eventually became a committee co-chair in Cabrini's chapter, involvement in Relay for Life served as more than just a resume-booster; it was a vehicle that inspired his goal of practicing medical social work or casework oncology and it helped him cope with a deeply personal tragedy.

"Even though Relay for Life helped inform my desired career path, I had extra incentive to dedicate myself to the cause. Halfway through my freshman year, my brother was diagnosed with cancer, and I participated in his honor. At the beginning of my junior year, he passed away," Sayles recalled. "That's what

really inspired me to turn Relay for Life into a landmark event at Cabrini."

His heavy involvement with the Relay program further inspired Sayles to explore opportunities for social work, and he looked for ways to gain experience with a younger population. With the help of his advisor, he applied for a summer job with Fiver Children Foundation's Camp Fiver, a camp that provides engaging summer experiences for under-privileged children in the New York City area. It seemed like a perfect fit for Sayles, providing him an opportunity to apply his interests in sports and academics to help younger children develop life skills.

"Securing that job ended up being a game-changer for me," he explains. "I loved being a camp counselor and teaching basketball, soccer, rugby, and Greek and Roman philosophy," he says.

That summer job also showed Columbia that Sayles had the initiative they look for in graduate students.

"That job and my experiences at Cabrini were instrumental in helping me gain acceptance into Columbia. I was able to fine-tune my career focus enough to know that I want to work with adolescents," he says.

That goal fuels Sayles' confidence in tackling the rigorous requirements of master's degree work at Columbia.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunities that Columbia and New York City offer," he says. "In the future, I see myself working with teenagers who might be traveling down the wrong path. I want to point them in the right direction or help to create new innovative strategies and policies that will make positive impacts on the lives of young people."



Tim Sayles '13



LENNY FIGORSKI RECEIVES BACHELOR'S DEGREE 17 YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Megan Maccherone

In 1996, Leonard "Lenny" Figorski enrolled at Cabrini College to pursue a bachelor's degree. Seventeen years later, on May 19, 2013, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management.

As Figorski's youngest daughter, Katharine, explained in an email to Cabrini's dean for academic affairs, "My father has been forced to draw out his time spent at Cabrini over the years—not because he is lazy, or not smart enough, but because over the years my father has put the needs and dreams of his loved ones before his own."

Figorski was diligently taking one course each semester at Cabrini when in 2003, his wife Diane was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer. Figorski focused his energy on being there for Diane through every step of her treatment, while also providing for their two daughters, both under the age of 12, and working full time at Wyeth (now Pfizer). He put his studies on the back burner.

"When a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, everybody carries cancer, not just one person," Figorski says.

"I got a lot less friendly with butter and cheese, and there was a lot more chicken and less hamburgers," Figorski said in the article.

He tried to get back to his studies at Cabrini that September, but it became clear to Figorski that he needed more time to focus on living a healthier lifestyle. He ended up in the hospital in October, when a third stent was implanted.

As an associate director in packaging, Figorski, who lives in West Bradford Township in Chester County, Pa., traveled around the world for the pharmaceutical company, and even lived in Puerto Rico for several months while he helped improve operations at a manufacturing plant there. It was his dedication to the company that prompted him to pursue a degree from Cabrini College in the first place. When Figorski realized that he was reaching managerial positions, he didn't want the absence of a college degree to hold him back.

Cabrini was right around the corner when Wyeth was still in Radnor, Pa., in 1999. Even though Figorski now works at the Pfizer branch in Collegeville, Pa., he has never considered transferring to another college.

"Cabrini was home for me," he says.

In 2009, Figorski returned to Cabrini, taking six to nine credits each semester, plus as many accelerated classes during the summer and winter breaks as possible. Figorski took classes at night or on the weekends so that he didn't disrupt his work schedule.

"My Pfizer management has been very supportive about my return to studies," he says.

Katharine Figorski felt compelled to send that email several months in advance of her father's graduation. She wrote, "I am writing you today not as a proud parent, which I'm sure you see very often, but as a proud daughter. He is living proof that no matter what obstacles may come your way, God has a wonderful plan for you. If you really want something and you are willing to work hard for it—whether it's an opportunity, a job, or a college degree, God will take care of you ... he always does."

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, Figorski was surrounded by family, including daughters Katharine and Elizabeth and wife Diane, as he finally accepted the degree that he has been working toward for 17 years.

Figorski says that he is relieved and ready to move on, but emphasizes, "I may be completing a degree, but I'll never finish my education."



Lenny Figorski '13 processes at Commencement.

Shortly after Diane's cancer went into remission in 2004, Figorski felt a pain in his arm on his drive into work. Diane drove Figorski to the hospital, where they found out that he had suffered a minor heart attack. It was then Figorski who was going through multiple surgeries and medical procedures.

Figorski explained in an article in the *Daily Local News* that his heart attack came without warning, as he had no serious indicators previously. Initially, he had two artery stents inserted and made a few dietary changes.

Lenny Figorski '13 celebrated his graduation with, from left, daughter Katharine, wife Diane and daughter Elizabeth.



Cavaliers Continue Athletic and Academic Success

By David Howell

The true measure of a student-athlete is ability to balance the rigors of academics and athletics, finding a way to be successful at both endeavors. That is exactly what Cabrini's student-athletes have done during the 2012–13 academic year.



Melissa Scanzano '15

Cabrini claimed both CSAC basketball titles, achieving the feat for the first time since the 1994–95 season. The clubs posted a combined record of 32-2 in league play en route to the titles. The men claimed the program's fourth consecutive title with a 90-74 win over Keystone. The team made its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Elite Eight. Making its first championship game appearance since 2008–09, the Cabrini women topped Gwynedd-Mercy 49-38, going a perfect 18-0 against CSAC competition during the season.

The Blue and White continued its dominance on the lacrosse field in the spring. Cabrini has appeared in 30 of the CSAC's 36 conference lacrosse championships, claiming 25 titles. The women capped their 10th unbeaten league schedule with a 22-11 championship win over Neumann. The men raised their 13th consecutive crown with a 24-3 win over Centenary and in the process extended its regular and postseason win streak over CSAC opposition to 121 games.

On the fields and courts of competition, the Blue and White captured six Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) championships and placed second in two others en route to reclaiming the CSAC Overall President's Cup for the first time since 2007–08.

This marks the seventh time the Blue and White has won the overall athletic title. The Cavaliers also secured the Men's President's Cup for the 11th time, while the women finished fourth.

The Blue and White soccer teams swept the titles for the fourth time in league history, joining teams in 1994, 1995 and 2009. The ladies topped Gwynedd-Mercy 5-4 in a penalty kick shootout, while the men topped Rosemont 2-1.

Missy Miller '13



2012-13 Colonial States Athletic Conference Champions & NCAA Tournament Participants

Men's Basketball

Men's Lacrosse

Men's Soccer

Women's Basketball

Women's Lacrosse

Women's Soccer



Men's lacrosse captures 13th consecutive conference championship.

The Cavaliers' field hockey and volleyball teams also appeared in their respective title games, while the golf team finished second in its annual conference tournament.

The success continued into the classroom for the Cavaliers as 112 student-athletes were named to the CSAC Fall and Spring All-Academic Teams. Student-athletes must achieve a grade-point average of 3.20 or higher during their semester of competition, while using a full season of eligibility as determined by the NCAA.

Seven Cavaliers were named to eight *Philadelphia Inquirer* Academic All-Area Teams this year. Senior Lindsey Atzert was named to both the field hockey and softball teams, while golf's Rob Bass and men's soccer's Kyle Johnson received the honor. Women's swimming and men's lacrosse

each earned two nods for juniors Courtney Good and Breaghann Smith and junior Corey Elmer and senior Bobby Thorp, respectively.

Thorp joined fellow senior Tim Grenier as United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Scholar All-Americans, while 12 field hockey student-athletes were named to the Gladiator/National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Academic Squad. Seniors Taylor McGarvey and Katie Savage received Gladiator/NFHCA Scholar of Distinction accolades after achieving 3.9 grade point averages during the 2012 campaign.

Atzert, one of the 12 field hockey players honored by the NFHCA, also was named the 2013 CSAC Female Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Women's lacrosse captures second consecutive conference championship, and 12th in the program's 17-year history.



Rob Bass '14



Lindsey Atzert and Bobby Thorpe were awarded Most Outstanding Student-Athletes at the annual Senior Student-Athlete Awards Banquet in May 2013.



ALUMNI NEWS



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It has been a wonderful year to serve as president of the Cabrini College Alumni Association. The Alumni Board of Directors' dedicated work to plan events connecting fellow alumni and recognizing the proud heritage of our Cabrini family has paid off.

This year the Alumni Association has achieved a number of goals, which would not have been possible without your support. Our young alumni have raised the bar and represented 71 percent of the attendance at the second annual Alumni Sweetheart Dance and 51 percent at the annual Team Trivia event, which benefits the Alumni Scholarship for graduating students. The Commencement Flower Sale sold out of roses for the sixth consecutive year, and generated a record amount for Camp Kismet and the Alumni Scholarship.

As we embark on a new academic year, the Alumni Board will continue to work to increase alumni participation and reconnect with as many Cabrini alumni as possible. We are challenging all alumni to help spread the word about alumni events and to give back to Cabrini.

The College is proud to continue one of the most popular alumni events, Cabrini Night at the Phillies, on Sept. 6, 2013, which will be preceded by an Alumni Happy Hour at XFINITY Live! In addition, Sept. 27–29 marks the return of Homecoming Weekend (in place of Family Weekend).

I look forward to seeing both fresh and familiar faces at these exciting upcoming events. Thank you for your support of our alma mater. I am blessed to work with amazing individuals on the Alumni Board and in our community who care so much for our institution, students and alumni.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Vagell Jr."

Craig Vagell Jr.
President, Cabrini College Alumni Association
Class of 2005

A watermark-style crest of Cabrini College, featuring a heart with hands holding a torch above it, and the Latin motto "BENEFICIUM SUPRA SEIPSU".

UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

JULY 27

Alumni at the Shore
4–7 p.m., Golden Inn
Avalon, N.J.

SEPTEMBER 6

Cabrini Night at the Phillies
Philadelphia Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves
Alumni Happy Hour at XFINITY Live!
5–7 p.m., \$20 per person

*Save
the Date*

SEPTEMBER 22–28
Cavalier Spirit Week

SEPTEMBER 27–29
Homecoming Weekend

NOVEMBER 1–18

STOP Hunger Food Drive
Institutional Advancement Office is drop-off
location for alumni donations

NOVEMBER 9

Cabrini Uncorked
Wine & Beer Fundraising Event for
Cabrini Annual Fund Committee
6–9 p.m., Mansion

DECEMBER 8

Christmas at Cabrini
1–3 p.m., Mansion

STAY CONNECTED! Find out the latest news and offerings for Cabrini alumni:



Like the "Cabrini College Alumni Office"
on Facebook

Also, search for and like your class page
to reconnect with classmates. Class
pages can be found in the format of
"Cabrini College Class of <Year>."



Join the "Cabrini College Alumni"
group on LinkedIn

Network and exchange professional
tips among peers. Discover the latest
professional development offerings for
Cabrini alumni.



Do you have an idea for an upcoming
alumni and friends event? Or do you
want to receive the Alumni Office's
e-newsletter, Connections, and monthly
upcoming events email? Email alumni@cabrini.edu.

Visit www.cabrini.edu/alumni to learn about the offerings available to Cabrini alumni.

WELCOMING GRADUATING STUDENTS TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On May 13, the Alumni Office hosted the annual Senior Class Picnic to congratulate members of the Class of 2013 and officially welcome them to the Cabrini College Alumni Association. The graduating class enjoyed dinner and drinks on the Commons while reminiscing with classmates and meeting members of the Alumni Board of Directors.

At the picnic, Lisa Mininno Carnesi '98 announced that the senior class voted Mary Kate Miller '13 the recipient of the 2013 Mother Ursula Award. Carnesi, a former recipient,

presented the award certificate to Miller for her activities on campus, including her roles as a student ambassador in the Admissions Office, mailroom assistant, and president of the Psychology Club. Miller plans to pursue a career in psychology, and has already worked as a psychiatric assistant at Philhaven Hospital in Mount Gretna, Pa., and as an intern at Acadia Healthcare in Lancaster, Pa. Alumni Association President Craig Vagell Jr. '05 presented her with a plaque at the May 19 Commencement ceremony.





ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Cabrini College Honorary Alumna Award

Cathy Yungmann, Associate Professor of Communication

Cabrini College Young Alumna Award

Ashley Graham Nevin '03

Martha Dale Award for Distinguished Service

Hillary Hoch-Chybinski '90

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Award for Community Service

Nancy Battaglia Gustafson '66

Distinguished Achievement Award

Dane Linn '83

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2013

More than 325 alumni and friends celebrated Alumni Weekend 2013, May 31–June 1. The weekend's festivities kicked off with a faculty bus tour of Philadelphia, including stops at Lincoln Financial Field, the Reading Terminal Market, and the Barnes Museum. That night, the Class of 1968 celebrated its 45th Reunion in the Mansion Dining Room. Off campus, alumni met at the Manayunk Brewery for the Alumni Musicfest, with live performances by Atley Moon and Red Tape Rewind, featuring Cabrini alumni, and by soloist Kevin Eppler '98.

On Saturday, alumni, families and friends participated in a 5K Campus Run & Mile Walk to benefit the Martha Dale Endowed Scholarship. Activities continued during the day with back-to-class lectures, the Alumni Association annual meeting and awards luncheon, milestone class reunion receptions, student-led campus tours, and an alumni mass. The Mansion Gala served as the finale to the weekend, with dinner and dancing in the Mansion along with a 50th Reunion celebration for the Class of 1963.



Leading by Following: Like Father, Like Daughter

By Dave Meyers

For some students, teachers can be great sources of inspiration. But for Laura Pepe '07, G'12, one teacher has provided lifelong encouragement—her father. Laura fondly recalls her early experiences visiting her father's classroom.

"When I was young, I would help my father grade papers and set up his classroom," says Laura. "As I grew older, I began to notice that his students shared my appreciation for him; he was nurturing, knowledgeable, trustworthy, and kind. I suppose those qualities rubbed off on me because I knew that I wanted to grow up to make a difference too. That's what inspired me, and continues to inspire me, to be a great teacher."

Laura was in her infancy when her father, John Pepe '87, realized his passion for educating.

"Back then, I had been working full time at the eastern headquarters of Sears, but I wanted more. Motivated by the hope I had for my young family and the positive experiences of my Catholic education, I knew I had a calling that needed to be answered," says John. "I decided to attend Cabrini as a student in the Continuing Education program."

Through its flexible accommodations, Cabrini was able to facilitate John's educational and spiritual growth, providing him with the tools he needed to pursue his dream of becoming an elementary school teacher.

"I chose Cabrini because I knew that I'd receive a personalized education that would enable me to reach my longtime career goal. Since I worked during the day, just about all of my elementary education courses were completed in the evening," John recalls. "Work and school kept me busy, but I never lost sight of the big picture. Spending much of my time praying and studying in Cabrini's chapel, I knew that the Lord had greater plans for me."

Unfortunately, Sears closed the doors of its eastern headquarters in the summer of 1986, leaving both John and his wife without jobs. John was grateful



John Pepe '87 and
Laura Pepe '07, G'12

to have had the foresight to seek out career alternatives and his prayers were answered in the fall of 1987, when he was hired as a fifth-grade teacher in the Upper Darby School District. After a few successful years, John's principal advised him to return to school to become an administrator.

"After earning my certification from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992, there were no administrative positions available in Upper Darby," says John. "Though I was content working as a teacher, I was encouraged to follow my assistant superintendent to Octorara Primary Learning Center in Chester County, where I served as assistant principal for two years and as principal for four years, but it just didn't feel right for me."

Longing for more direct and regular engagement with students, John decided to follow his heart and return to the classroom. He stayed at Octorara, where he has taught second grade for the past 14 years. Though administration was not John's ideal fit, Laura recognizes that his experiences can be uniquely applied to teaching.

"My father is a truly valuable resource. Having served as both a teacher and a principal, he can

view situations from dual perspectives," Laura says. "Over the past few years, he has been able to guide me in lesson planning and classroom management; he provides me with teaching tools and helps me set up my classroom too."

Laura, who received a master of education with reading specialist certification in May, currently teaches first-graders at Avon Grove Charter School. John has great pride in what his daughter has been able to accomplish.

"Laura has already established herself a strong and confident educator. She is a hard working teacher who has adopted Cabrini's philosophy of not only meeting the needs of students, but also meeting those of the school's parents and its surrounding community," says John.

Elaborating on her area of interest, Laura explains the significance of enforcing good literary teaching practices.

"First grade is a crucial year in which children begin to read. I have been applying what I have learned from Cabrini's reading program into my own classroom," says Laura. "My ultimate career goal is to become a reading specialist, a goal which I have already begun to achieve by obtaining my master's degree."

Both Laura and John seem to agree on the greatest rewards of their jobs.

"My favorite part of what I do is watching the faces of children as they make new discoveries," says John.

"I take so much joy in watching children learn and grow, knowing that I contributed to their development," says Laura. "And of course I love being so close to my favorite mentor; my father is the first person I call when I need advice about one of my students or the curriculum, and sometimes, we just like to bounce ideas off of each other."

CLASS NOTES

1961

Evelyn Cotteta Felice '61 and her husband, Charles, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are enjoying retirement in Naples, Fla.

1969

Jacque Taque Murray '69 welcomed grandson Patrick Dennis Seaman on Jan. 8, 2013.

1974

Connie McCarron '74 retired from teaching students with special needs in 2010. She currently works for Scholastic Literacy Solutions, where she provides literacy support for students and teachers.

1981

Noreen Yoder, Ed.D. '81 and her family attended the Canonization of Saint Louis Guanella in Rome on Oct. 22, 2011. She has worked as the director/associate professor of the Widener University Child Development Center Lab School since 1991.

1990

Francesco Iacono '90 recently marked two years as Internet marketing manager for Horizon Services, where he manages the creation, development, coordination, implementation, and execution of the company's digital marketing communications program.

Brian Tripoli '90 and his wife, Julie, recently celebrated the birth of their first child, Luke James, on Sept. 14, 2012. Tripoli is an account sales manager for Red Bull Philadelphia, and resides with his family in Woolwich Township, N.J. (*photo*)

1992

Laura Hewitt '92 joined Coldwell Banker Preferred in Blue Bell, Pa., as a sales associate, and was featured in an article on [Ambler Patch.com](#).

1994

Jason Paolini '94 was appointed to the board of Feeding America San Diego (FASD). He has served as the president of US Foods in the Greater San Diego area since 2010.

1996

Billy Carr '96 and his wife, Maureen, welcomed a baby girl, McKenna James, on March 10, 2013. She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and joins brothers Kyle (15) and Will (4) and sister Greta (2) at home in Springfield, Pa. Carr is a physical education and health teacher at Springton Lake Middle School in Media, Pa. He also is owner/director of allball! basketball camps, with camps in summer and clinics throughout the school year.

1999

Stephen Brandt '99, G'01 was appointed principal of Bensalem High School in May 2013. Previously, he served as principal of Roxborough High School and made headlines about his work to reform the school. In April, Brandt was awarded the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation's Distinguished Principal Award, which is given annually to Philadelphia's top public school principals.

Kelly Hill Gallagher '99, who is a customer recovery specialist at Ceridian, recently received the Human Resources/Employee Assistance Professionals (EAPs) Award at Caron's 13th Annual Greater Philadelphia Community

Service Awards Breakfast. Caron is a non-profit organization dedicated to the treatment and prevention of addiction. The award recognizes an exemplary professional who has demonstrated a level of service and caring for employees and their families above and beyond the call of duty.

2005

Ed Houseman '05 and **Liz Ritter Houseman '05** welcomed a daughter, Reese, in April. She joins older brother, Brett, age 2. (*photo*)

2006

Christina Kulp '06 married Brian Doty on July 7, 2012. Their ceremony was held at the couple's church in Douglassville, Pa., and was followed by a reception at Reading Country Club. They reside in Birdsboro, Pa.

Christina Bieniek Ladislaw '06 and her husband, Steve, welcomed their first child, Landon Joseph, on Jan. 23, 2013. (*photo*)

Mike Ryan '06 was awarded employee of the year at Advanced Staging Productions in West Chester, Pa., in December 2012.

2007

Geraldine Tracey Johnson '07 received a master's degree in multicultural education from Eastern University in 2012.



(Below): *Luke James Tripoli*;

(Above right): *Reese Houseman*;

(Below right): *Landon Joseph Ladislaw*



Sharon Kolankiewicz '07 and Jason Becker welcomed a son, Bentley Michael, on May 2, 2013. ([photo](#))

Katie Lowther '07 received a doctorate in biomedical science from the University of Connecticut. She is a postdoctoral associate at Yale University School of Medicine and was awarded a fellowship from the Lalar Foundation to support her research in reproductive biology.

2008

Marissa Simeone '08 is engaged to marry Shaun Baldasano in September 2013.

2009

Natalie L. Barto G'09 and Jason M. Smith, both of Cogan Station, Pa., were married on Oct. 6, 2012.

2010

Steven Forrester '10 was accepted into the doctoral program for integrated exercise physiology at Temple University. He will be receiving a master's degree in kinesiology this summer from Temple.

Lisa Jones G'10 was selected as principal of Ringing Rocks Elementary School in the Pottsgrove School District, Pottstown, Pa. Jones, who earned a master's degree in educational leadership at Cabrini, previously was assistant principal at Owen J. Roberts Middle School.

Nunziatina Maria Vitanza '10 is engaged to marry Nicholas DeFalco.

2011

Janelle Benner G'11 was a violin soloist during a string concert at Ursinus College in April 2013. Her solo was featured in J.S. Bach's "Concerto for Violin in A minor." Benner, who is head field hockey coach at Ursinus, earned a master of education at Cabrini.

Kady Snyder Blass G'11 and **Andrew Blass G'12** welcomed their first child, Annie Sue, on April 8, 2013. ([photo](#))

Kristen Lenza G'11 was featured in a [Springfield Patch.com](#) article as Springfield School District's May Teacher of the Month. Lenza is a special education teacher at Sabold Elementary. ([photo](#))

2012

Michael Tuzio '12 recently volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Nepal, where he worked with a family to build their home. ([photo](#))

2013

Meghan Kaplan G'13 was featured on [readingeagle.com](#) as a fifth-grade teacher at Monocacy Elementary Center in Birdsboro, Pa.

We want to hear from you!

Cabrini College encourages communications from alumni regarding career change, publications, volunteer work, marriages, births, and other information that is of interest to fellow classmates and the Cabrini community.

To submit your class note to :

- Log on to www.cabrini.edu/alumni or email alumni@cabrini.edu
- Mail to Cabrini College, Alumni Relations, 610 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA 19087

For publication purposes, electronic images should be at least 2" x 3" with a resolution of at least 300 dpi (dots per inch). JPG or TIF files acceptable.



(Top Left): Kristen Lenza G'11 with students;
 (Top Right): Michael Tuzio '12;
 (Below Left): Bentley Michael Kolankiewicz
 (Below Right): Kady Snyder Blass G'11 and Andrew Blass G'12 with daughter Annie Sue

Cabrini's annual scholarship brunch recognizes the benefactors of all named scholarships and student scholarship recipients. At this year's event, held April 13, Adrian Prawl '13 reflected on the importance of receiving the 2012 Martha Dale Scholarship:

...This [psychology] major sort of chose me. My friends describe me as mellow and fair tempered, I am a guy who gets along with everyone. I was always giving good advice to my fellow friends and peers; so I figured, why not make this a career.



John Dale, husband of the late Martha Dale, and Adrian Prawl '13 at the Scholarship Brunch on April 13, 2013.

Over the years I developed a knack for helping people; it has become something that I truly love to do. After graduation, I plan to turn my attention towards assisting the inner city youth through education and mentoring. The future is bright for me; Cabrini has taught me how to put myself aside and to help others first. Through various acts of community service, I have learned how to take what I have learned in the classroom and transfer that into the real world.

... I had the opportunity to tutor students in Norristown thanks to the Wolfington Center. It was there where I realized that giving back felt great and it was something that I grew to love. The smiles and appreciation received from the students were priceless. I cherish that experience to this day.

I grew up in Yeadon, Pa., a town not too far from here. Although it was a single parent household, my mother did everything in her will to ensure her children would stay on the right path. Before I entered high school I lost an

older brother to violence in the streets, that day changed my life forever. It was from that point that I told my mother I would take care of her, and make her more proud than she had ever been.

I never thought that I was poised to be a college student, nor did I think that I had what it took to attend. . . .

It was during my senior year that I began applying to various colleges. All of my peers around me were receiving acceptance letters and I wasn't. I started to really question if college was really for me.

One day I received a letter in the mail from Cabrini. Like the others, I was expecting it to be a disappointing feat. To my surprise, I was accepted. Words could not describe the joy that ran through me as I read the words that lined the page. I would be a college freshman in the fall of 2009...it was surreal.

I knew that there was a chance of me not being able to come to Cabrini because of the price, but that did not deter my ambition. I wanted to be something in life, no matter the cost. After a visit, I knew Cabrini was for me. I pictured myself in the dorms, meeting new people and enjoying a brand new environment; before I knew it, my time had come to start classes.

I wasn't used to being given a lot of things throughout my life, I was taught to work hard for what you want growing up. Those values stuck with me until this day.

I chose Cabrini because it provided me an opportunity that I know I would not be able to get anywhere else. The small school experience, and the one-on-one time you get with teachers (they actually know you by name) is something that is rare to come across.

As we all know, college isn't the cheapest investment in the world. At times it became unclear if I'd be able to return but things always worked out. During my senior year I ran across the same problem. There was a hold on my account and I was unsure if I would be able to register for spring classes, most importantly to graduate. . . . This scholarship meant everything to me; it was my golden ticket for the future. I could now envision myself in my cap and gown, walking down the aisle.

I conclude by expressing my deepest gratitude and thanks to John Dale and the family and friends of the late Martha Dale. I loved my time here at Cabrini; these last four years of my life have been great. . . . I am confident that with what I have learned here I will be more than ready to take on what lies ahead of me.

HAVE YOU CREATED A PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE?



CREATE YOUR PLAN

Creating your plan is now easier than ever before with the new online **Wills Planner** that is featured on our website. It will help you organize your family and estate information using our secure online system. When you are finished, you may share your information with a qualified gift attorney who can then complete your will or trust plan and prepare it for filing. Planning for your future has never been easier! To get started, go to our website, click on "Plan Your Will" and create your **Wills Planner** account. We look forward to helping you plan your future!



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