

# AROUND CATHOLIC



Musicians perform before an exhibit of paintings by Candace Masters, M.F.A. '05, during a Cardinal Weekend reception in Salve Regina Hall.

Ed Pfeiffer

## A Historic Moment for the Arts

New beginnings, new partnerships, and a new sense of energy can be found within the arts community at Catholic University, as the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art kicks off its inaugural year.

The school, which was established in June after a vote by the University's Board of Trustees, has united the departments of drama and art and the School of Music in an effort to foster cross-disciplinary efforts and anchor the University's commitment to the arts in a new way.

"When we combine these three areas, it gives us not only a rebirth, but also a reenergizing of what we can do," said Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, M.A. 1988, the new dean of the school. "It refocuses the arts in a new way here at the University and it gives us the ability to collaborate in ways that we have never done before."

Leary-Warsaw said she believes the formation of the new school is historic for the University as a whole. Over the summer, she created a leadership team of professors from the different departments to increase the collaborative communication between disciplines.

Patrick Tuite, associate dean of graduate studies and productions, believes that closer collaboration between students and music, drama, and art faculty will result in higher-quality musical and dramatic productions.

"We have a special relationship with the public in that we have a public face — we invite people from the Washington, D.C., area and beyond to see our work," Tuite said. "We take that responsibility really seriously and we want our work to be very sharp."

Junior Isabelle Groll, who studies musical theatre and performance arts management, said she is excited to be part of something new for the University.

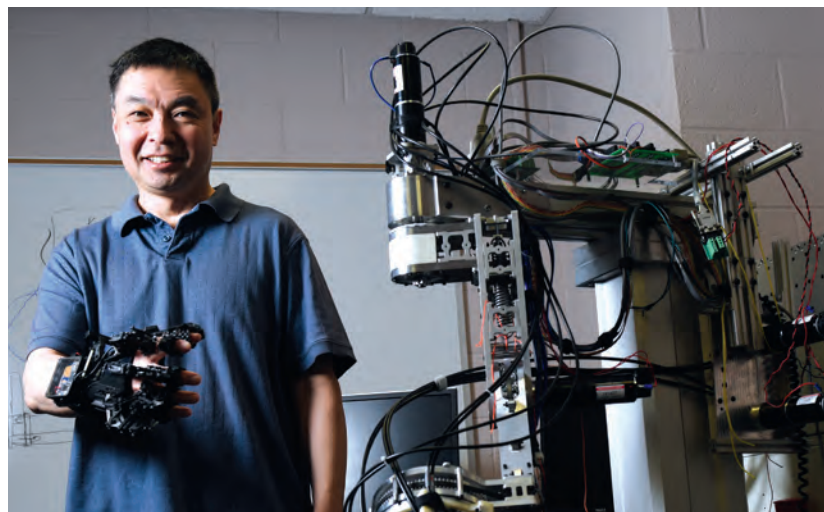
"Ultimately, we get to be the classes that create the stepping stones for students to come to this new school," she said. "I think it is exciting."

Nora Heimann, chair of the Department of Art, said she is eager to find new synergies with music and drama. She is inspired by the words of Pope Francis, who has called upon artists to "discover the beauty of being loved by God and [to] bear witness to it" by creating "an oasis of beauty." — K.B.

C. Stanley Photography



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## Rehabilitation Research Center Launches

The School of Engineering has been awarded a \$4.6 million, 5-year grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research to establish a Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC).

The center's interdisciplinary team will involve three other area institutions — MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Children's National Health System, and Johns Hopkins University. One of its chief aims is to combat the reduced effectiveness of interventions that require traveling to a clinic to receive one-on-one treatment, which can be a costly challenge to patients with sensorimotor impairments.

"I'm most excited about technologies that empower patients with access to therapies 24/7," said Peter Lum, chair of Biomedical Engineering (left), who will serve as the RERC's director.

## A Well-Funded Faculty

### All Tenured Faculty in the Department of Biology Now Funded by NIH

A biology professor and an engineering-biology team received research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) this summer for innovative projects pertaining to cancer research, biofluidics, and the microbiome. These grants recognize fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations on campus and mark a prestigious accomplishment for the Department of Biology. Every tenure-track and tenured professor in the department has now received research funding from the NIH.

"This is quite rare," said Venigalla Rao, department chair. "It reflects the high quality of research pursued by our faculty, which integrates both basic as well as translational research to address some of the critical questions in cell and molecular biology."

Byung Min (Justin) Chung, an assistant professor who focuses on cell structure and cancer biology, received an NIH grant for his research studying the role of keratin 19 (K19) in cancer cells.

"Once we study how K19 works in cancer and how cancer cells progress," said Chung, "then we can not only detect cancer, but we can also begin to develop functional and efficient treatment options."

An interdisciplinary team including Xiaolong Luo, associate professor of mechanical engineering, and John Choy, assistant professor in biology, were awarded an NIH grant in support of their collaborative research. They aim to create a biological platform that will enable researchers to learn how

various species of microorganisms interact in ways that could either lead to disease or protect health.

"It's clear that bacteria and other microorganisms inhabiting our body have a profound effect on our health, as well as when health goes awry," Choy said.

Together, the professors have designed highly flexible microfluidic devices that provide a livable habitat for multiple species of bacteria and yeast, even if each has different nutritional needs, and a common area where the different species can interact.

Choy said he was happy to be working with Luo to develop something so innovative.

"I think if you look at science, it's becoming more interdisciplinary, because the new technologies that are being developed are being used to address long-standing biological questions," Choy said. "I'm really excited to move forward." — K.B.



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## Nursing Students Benefit from Largest Scholarship Gift in University History

Thanks to a \$13 million gift from Board of Trustees member Bill Conway and his wife, Joanne, Catholic University has expanded the William and Joanne Conway Scholars Program within the School of Nursing.

The goal of the Conway Scholars Program is to serve the community by increasing the number of qualified students who have the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University. Not only do Conway Scholars receive a top-notch nursing education, but the larger impact of the gift will also be felt for years to come through the care provided by program graduates to the thousands of patients each will treat over the course of his or her career.

"The gift will help the School of Nursing remain competitive nationally in enrolling top-quality nursing candidates," said Chris Lydon, vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

Added Patricia McMullen, dean of the School of Nursing, "This extraordinary gift from Bill and Joanne will truly change lives. Many Conway Scholars would be unable to afford to enroll at Catholic University to pursue their dream of becoming a nurse without the full or partial scholarship support the Conways have provided. As graduates,

they will change the lives of those they serve in health care settings in Washington, D.C., across the country, and around the world."

The Conway Scholars program started in 2014, and 100% of the first 19 graduates are now fully employed in nursing. The most recent gift of \$13 million pays for a third cohort of 15 Conway Scholars that started classes in August. In addition to the full-time scholarships — which include tuition, fees, room, board, and books — the gift enables other selected students to receive partial scholarships.

The couple's goal (through gifts to Catholic University and other nursing schools) is to eventually help to educate 10,000 nurses working in the field all over the world.

"The \$13 million gift from Bill and Joanne Conway for nursing scholarships is the largest gift for scholarships in our history," University President John Garvey said. "They are an incredibly generous couple, and they have given the University a gift that is truly extraordinary. It is a blessing that will transform so many lives. I can't thank Bill and Joanne enough for their continued investment in our School of Nursing and in our students, both now and in the future." — A.K.

## Marketing Expert Shares His Wisdom

Marketing expert Seth Godin — an entrepreneur, speaker, and the author of 18 books — challenged students of the Busch School of Business to find their "origin stories" in order to create a meaningful life.

During a talk in September, Godin shared stories of the early days of his own career, when he found opportunities, he said, by "going to places where I'm not supposed to go before I'm supposed to go there."

"I have failed more times than anyone in this room and I'm proud of it," he added. "The people I have met along the way have made it worth it."



## Canonist Leaves Legacy of Love and Learning

Education was important to Monsignor Thomas Green.

Monsignor Green, a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, longstanding editor of *The Jurist*, and the first Stephen Kuttner Distinguished Professor of Canon Law, passed away on April 28, 2018. His personal effects contained many books, but not much else.

“He lived an exceedingly simple life,” said Monsignor Ronny Jenkins, dean of the School of Canon Law.

Rev. John Beal, a colleague of Monsignor Green in the School of Canon Law, remembered him as a brilliant scholar and recalled his lack of interest in clothing or anything remotely flashy.

Many members of the maintenance and technical staffs that worked in Caldwell Hall, Father Beal said, stopped to offer their condolences after the death of Monsignor Green, an only child who considered the people at Catholic University his family.

“Every night after dinner, he would say, ‘Well brothers, another day,’” Beal recalled. “He was such a kind man. I still come up the stairs and want to walk into his office and say hello.”

Monsignor Green lived in Caldwell Hall until 1994. He then moved to Curley Hall, and his former apartment in Caldwell became his office.

Rev. Alan M. Guanella, currently studying canon law, was one of Monsignor Green’s fellow residents in Curley Hall.

“He would always find the good in every situation,” Father Guanella said, adding that Monsignor Green expressed interest in papers he was writing for other classes and was quick to suggest sources to help expand upon a topic. “He took a great interest in whatever we were talking about.”

Upon his death, Monsignor Green left his private library to the University, but those volumes aren’t his only legacy. Years ago, he also bequeathed a substantial amount in his will to the School of Canon Law, to be used at the discretion of the dean.

“It was very early that he decided to do this,” Monsignor Jenkins said, adding while some aspects of Green’s will altered over the years, his wish to support Catholic University never wavered.

“He was very generous and, as you can imagine, in 44 years of collecting retirement he accumulated something that was pretty sizable. It’s a major bequest for us,” Father Beal said. “Canon Law is really the smallest program on campus, and alumni are not wealthy.”

While Monsignor Green’s estate hasn’t yet been finalized, Monsignor Jenkins hopes to honor his late colleague and friend by using his bequest, valued at approximately \$1.2 million, to enhance and expand the Gratian Canon Law Library, a small, shelf-lined room in Caldwell Hall, to more than double its square footage. It will be dedicated as the “Msgr. Thomas Green Memorial Library.”

Monsignor Jenkins hopes the new library will serve as a valuable place for reference and study.

Books and bequest aside, Father Beal said Monsignor Green’s greatest legacy is in his years as a professor.

“Whether fellow professors, students, or alumni, this was his home and his family,” Father Guanella said.

While someone so well-lettered could have intimidated students, “you never felt you couldn’t have an opinion,” Father Guanella added. “He never came across as intellectually prideful. ... We were nowhere near the caliber, intellectually, that he was, but he would listen to us.”

Father Beal took several of Monsignor Green’s classes when he came to Catholic University in 1984. Their friendship grew when Father Beal returned as a professor himself in 1992.

“Besides being a brilliant canonist and an accomplished writer, he cared deeply about his students,” Father Beal said.

“He was here 44 years,” said Monsignor Jenkins. “He gave his life.” — A.K.



Rev. John Beal (left) celebrates Mass with Monsignor Green.



Planned giving sets charitable priorities while protecting current assets. Planned giving options are not limited to bequests like Monsignor Green’s, but can include endowments, trusts, gifts of real estate, annuities, and more. To learn more about bequests or other methods of planned giving to The Catholic University of America, contact Isabel de la Puente, director of planned giving, at 202-319-6914, delapuate@cua.edu, or visit the website at [cua.mypannedgift.org](http://cua.mypannedgift.org).

## Business Students Challenged to Think Creatively with Sketching Class

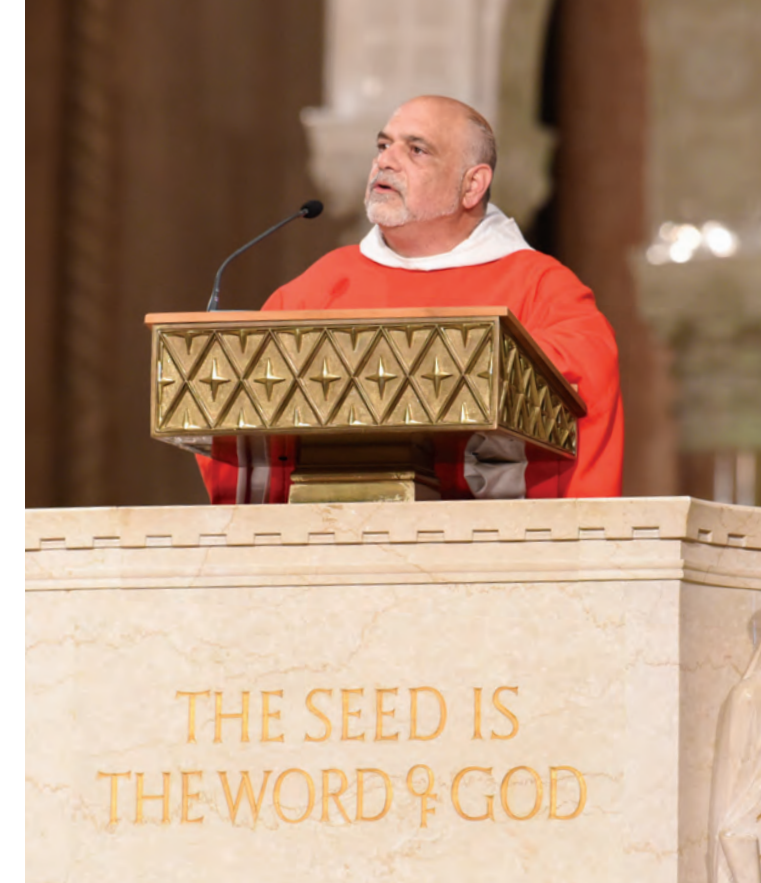
Business students tried their hands at drawing portraits during a two-week sketching master class. The course, which was taught by painter Igor Babailov, was organized by the Busch School of Business and included 15 students of different majors, as well as several professors and Jeanne Garvey, University President John Garvey’s wife.

According to Andreas Widmer, director of entrepreneurship programs for the Busch School, the course was intended to provide students with a new, creative way of looking at their vocations, while challenging them to overcome a kind of obstacle different than those typically faced in business classes.

“When [Babailov] talks about art, he talks about creating, and imitating the Creator,” said Widmer. “To do business, and invent new products, is a participation in God’s creation.” — K.W.



Photos: Clifton Kaszycki



## Community Called to Action and Hope

The University community was called to unity and action during this year’s Mass of the Holy Spirit, which took place in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in August.

The annual Mass, which was broadcast live on EWTN and CatholicTV, was celebrated by Rev. Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv., University chaplain and director of Campus Ministry.

In his homily, DeAngelo referenced the ongoing abuse crisis within the Church, saying that Catholics should rely on the Holy Spirit to find unity toward a common mission: listening to and ministering to abuse survivors.

“Broken, humbled, but united as the Body of Christ, we need to minister to all abuse victims and all the voiceless in our society,” he said. “The Catholic Church must take the lead in this ministry and not wait for others to do it.”

DeAngelo also called on the University community to keep hope in the Resurrection, saying, “We, the people of God, cannot abandon ship or lose hope in Christ or his advocate, the Holy Spirit.

“We can either choose to attend the sails together through this storm of doubt and fear or we can ignore again the iceberg of truth and go down into the deep,” he said.

University President John Garvey addressed the community at the end of Mass, speaking about prayer, and how spiritual traditions like the Mass of the Holy Spirit can have new importance during times of crisis.

“The Mass we celebrate today, invoking the help and intercession of the Holy Spirit, is certainly the most fitting, and perhaps useful, contribution we can offer to make things better,” he said. — K.B.



### Lessons from Lemons

A weeklong orientation program in August gave students in the Master of Science in Business Analysis (M.S.B.A.) degree program an introduction to basic business principles. The program concluded with a “lemonade stand challenge” in which six teams of students were given a “loan” of \$26 to purchase all the supplies they’d need to run lemonade businesses. The teams were responsible for marketing their stands and determining how to maximize profits, which were donated to Campus Ministry.

“We incorporated a half-court challenge [for customers] to say, ‘If you make [the basket], your lemonade is free, but if not, you can still support us and give to Campus Ministry,’” said M.S.B.A. student Jimmy Cassidy, whose team positioned its lemonade stand near the Kane Fitness Center basketball courts.

William B. Plowman/NBC



### Politics Students Attend ‘Meet the Press’ Taping

Students of Politics 421, Midterm Elections, a course taught by Politics Professors Matthew Green and John Kenneth White, attended “Meet the Press” tapings in September and October.

“Especially with all the skepticism surrounding the media today, it was interesting to see all that goes into producing a news show,” said Kaitlyn Troilo, who attended the October taping.

## University Opens New Center for Human Rights

More than 80 students, faculty, and members of the local community gathered for a discussion of human rights and religious liberty with Robert George, Princeton University’s McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, at The Catholic University of America’s Heritage Hall on Sept. 20.

The discussion, which was hosted by the Institute for Human Ecology (IHE), was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The lecture also marked the opening of a new Center for the Study of Human Rights at Catholic University and the launch of a new interdisciplinary degree, Master of Arts in Human Rights.

Throughout the conversation, George answered questions from William Saunders, an IHE fellow who is director of the program in human rights.

George began the conversation by discussing the positive influence the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has had since it was issued in 1948 as a response to the violence seen during the two world wars.

He called the declaration “an extraordinary achievement” that brought together people from many different faiths and backgrounds to “make a profound statement of the dignity of the human person.”

Saunders and George also discussed the dangers of the declaration, including how easily its language can be used to promote specific ideologies.

“We lose our sense of the power and importance of the fundamental rights because of the inflation that happens when you conflate whatever it is you desire, whatever is on your agenda, with rights,” George said.

He spoke highly of the new Center for the Study of Human Rights, which will bring the Catholic perspective to bear on the discussion and understanding of human rights. The master’s program, which is accepting students now, will begin officially in fall 2019.

“I think this institution will really bring something new to the table,” George said. “That is an understanding of human rights rooted in the deep tradition of thought that takes us back to Athens and to Jerusalem, an approach to human rights that really anchors human rights in the truth about the human person and the flourishing of the human person.”

Moral Theology Professor Joseph Capizzi, executive director of the Institute for Human Ecology, also spoke about the new center and said the program is unique because it “draws on the interdisciplinary strength of this University and also the Catholic intellectual tradition.” — K.B.

Deirdre McQuade



William Saunders and Robert George participate in a discussion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

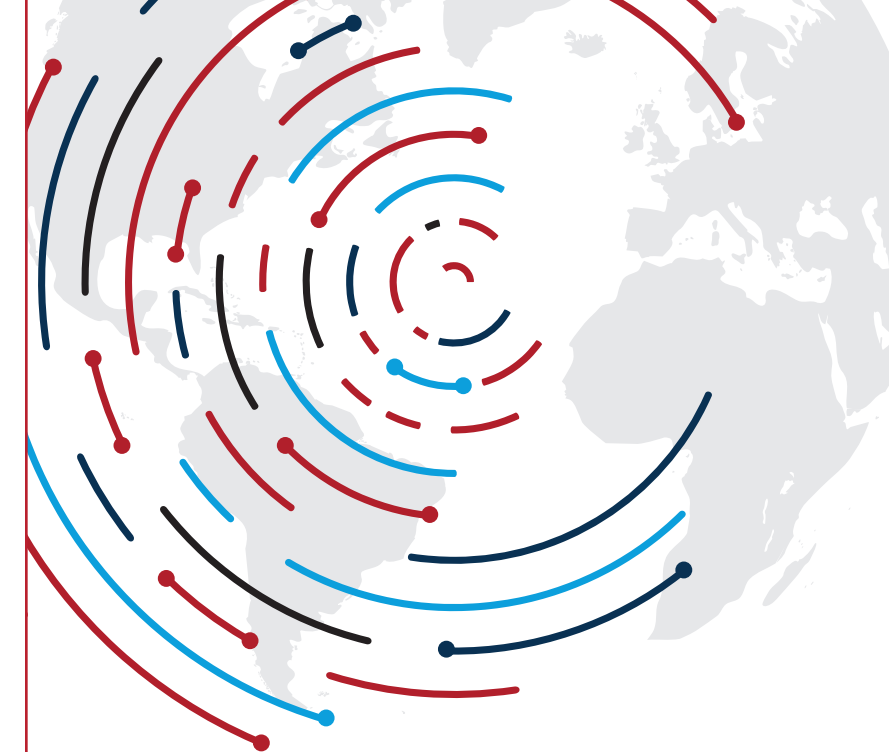
### Catholic University Prepares for Accreditation Process

Every 10 years, hundreds of universities participate in an accreditation process conducted by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), a regional association that assures educational excellence through a robust process of self-study, site visits, and peer review.

The Catholic University of America has been accredited by MSCHE since 1921 and was most recently re-accredited in 2010. Last spring, the University selected a steering committee to design an institutional self-study and coordinate the re-accreditation process, as well as seven working groups to address the seven standards that are the focus of the self-study and review process. Approximately 75 faculty, staff, and students will participate in this important work.

The self-study, which will be completed in large part during the 2018–19 academic year, will highlight the University’s distinctive mission, the student learning experience, noteworthy accomplishments over the last 10 years, and areas for improvement. The process will culminate in spring 2020, when a team of peer evaluators will use the report as the basis for an on-site evaluation.

Additional information, along with an opportunity to provide feedback, can be found at [accreditation.catholic.edu](http://accreditation.catholic.edu).



## ALUMNIFIRE Offers New Networking Opportunities for Alumni and Students

Alumnifire, a new online professional networking and mentoring tool for alumni and students, was launched in August.

With Alumnifire, there is no such thing as a cold call. Every member has an open door.

Alumnifire allows for an exchange of career advice and industry expertise, mock interviews, and résumé reviews. Not only can the free, grassroots service help students and alumni find internships and jobs, but it can also connect classmates who may have lost touch.

Registration takes just minutes using your email address or a LinkedIn or Facebook profile. For more information, visit [catholic.alumnifire.com](http://catholic.alumnifire.com).



The Fall Career and Internship Fair was held on Campus in the Pryzbyla University Center. More than 75 employers were there, including 16 represented by alumni (pictured).

## Law Professors Serve at the United Nations

Regina Jefferson, professor and interim dean of the Columbus School of Law, and Lucia Silecchia, professor of law, have both been designated as “experts” for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, an organization that represents the central governing body of the Catholic Church at the U.N. Headquarters.

As experts, both Jefferson and Silecchia attend U.N. meetings pertaining to their designated subject areas and prepare reports advising the mission on new trends and developments, especially any that might directly impact issues of concern to the Holy See.

Being able to participate in meetings at the U.N. is a “gratifying” experience, said Jefferson, who has served the mission as a tax expert since 2017.

“This experience has exposed me to another aspect of the Catholic Church,” she said. “Until I served as an expert for the mission, I never fully appreciated the importance of the role of the Holy See in this international forum.”

Silecchia attended her first U.N. meeting in December 2016, and acts as an expert on forests, disability rights, and the elderly. She enjoys the role because it allows her to serve the Church while also learning more about current affairs around the world.

“When you hear nations speak about their position on different issues, you can tell what’s driving them, whether it’s economics or politics or demographics,” Silecchia said. “The Holy See’s perspective is putting the human person first no matter where in the world they live.”

Working as an expert, she noted, has widened her perspective.

“When I go to a global forum and learn how these issues impact people in other countries very different from mine, I realize my perspective is very narrow,” she said. “Five minutes in to listening to people representing other countries I realize that there’s a lot I’ve never thought about.” — K.B.



Tim Tyler with Sandy Ogilvy, law professor

## Clemency Clinic Client Celebrates Freedom with Thank-You Tour

In 2016, this magazine shared the story (“Freedom Fighters”) of a group of law students working to help Tim Tyler obtain clemency during the years 2014 and 2015. Tyler had been sentenced in 1994 to life without parole for drug possession with intent to distribute.

“He was a peaceful young man who followed the Grateful Dead around the country,” alumna Janette Richardson told the magazine in 2016. “He’s a sweet individual who made some very poor choices, and had extenuating circumstances such as mental illness and past abuse by a family member. He deserves a second chance.”

Thanks to the help of Catholic University’s Innocence Project Clinic and Clemency Project, Tyler’s sentence was commuted on August 30, 2016, by President Barack Obama. This August, Tyler was released from the halfway house where he was staying and began his thank-you tour, stopping by the Columbus School of Law on Sept. 17.

“It was wonderful finally to meet Tim in person,” said Professor Sandy Ogilvy. Ogilvy noted that former students Janette Richardson and Melissa Saldivar were most responsible for working with Tyler to put together his application for commutation of sentence. Today, Richardson is a public defender in Pensacola, Fla., while Saldivar works as an associate attorney at Berry Appleman & Leiden, LLP, focusing on employment-based immigration matters.

The Innocence Project Clinic and Clemency Project conducts investigations of claims of actual innocence on behalf of individuals referred to the clinic by the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project and assists individuals convicted in Maryland with applications for parole or commutation of sentence.

## Musical Alumnus Remembered in New Movie

### *Green Book* is Early Oscar Contender

Already Oscar buzz is building for a new Hollywood feature film with a major connection to Catholic University. *Green Book*, due in theaters nationwide on Nov. 21, tells the story of African-American pianist and composer Donald Shirley’s concert tour through America’s segregated South in 1962. It stars Viggo Mortensen (*The Lord of the Rings*; *Hidalgo*) as Tony Lip, a working-class Italian-American bouncer who agrees to serve as driver for the trip, and Mahershala Ali (*Moonlight*; *Hidden Figures*) as Shirley, who earned his bachelor’s degree in music from the University in 1953.

The movie takes its title from *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a handbook created to provide black motorists traveling in the Jim Crow South with information about motels, restaurants, and other places and services that were relatively friendly to African-Americans in the years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination in public accommodations.

Variably reported as being born in Kingston, Jamaica, or Pensacola, Fla., in 1927, Shirley was said by family members to be playing the organ in church (his father was an Episcopal priest) at age 3, and to have mastered much of the standard piano concert repertory of the day by age 10. He made his professional debut with the Boston Pops at 18, performing Tchaikovsky’s *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor*. A year later, in 1946, his first major composition was performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

At Catholic University, Shirley studied with renowned organist Conrad Bernier and, for advanced composition, with both Bernier and George Thaddeus Jones. Current Professor of Music Andrew E. Simpson, himself a composer, pianist, and organist, believes Bernier’s influence, in particular, can be heard in much of Shirley’s recorded work.

“Bernier taught a class on fugue, which is the pinnacle of counterpoint and a real demonstration

of attainment of technique, and Shirley had amazing classical technique,” says Simpson, who also calls Shirley’s musical legacy “seriously underrated.”

Beyond his achievements as a classical composer — he would eventually compose at least three symphonies, two piano concerti, a cello concerto, three string quartets, and a one-act opera, as well as various other works for organ, piano, and violin — Simpson says, “Shirley did a lot of things, putting together classical and jazz motifs with his Don Shirley Trio, that anticipated the emergence of so-called ‘Third Stream’ music, which sought to fuse classical and jazz styles. His is a really remarkable body of work that deserves much wider recognition.”

No less a musical luminary than acclaimed composer and conductor Igor Stravinsky said of Shirley, “His virtuosity is worthy of gods.” Other admirers included Boston Pops impresario Arthur Fiedler and jazz greats Duke Ellington and Sarah Vaughan.

Shirley died of heart disease in 2013 at age 86, but *Green Book*, which won the People’s Choice Award at the 2018 Toronto Film Festival, promises to reintroduce this erudite and often unconventional musician to a new global audience. As this magazine went to press, the film enjoyed a rare 100% approval rating from the popular review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes. — K.M.B.



Mahershala Ali (right) portrays Catholic University alumnus Donald Shirley in *Green Book*, based on Shirley’s 1962 concert tour through America’s segregated South. Viggo Mortensen plays Shirley’s driver, Tony Lip.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Catholic University was ranked at **141** of nearly 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities, according to the latest *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings*.

The University was ranked **10th** among U.S. Catholic institutions overall and **3rd** among Catholic institutions for academic resources supporting students.

## Professor Pens a 'Requiem' for 19th-Century Actor

During a visit to Mount Auburn Cemetery outside Boston in the early 1980s, Drama Professor Gary Sloan lay on the grave of famed Shakespearean actor Edwin Thomas Booth. He remembers the moment as “poignant, like visiting a great-grandfather.”

Sloan made several visits to Booth's grave as part of his research for a one-man play about the American actor whose brother, John Wilkes Booth, killed President Abraham Lincoln. Sloan has studied the actor in detail to develop a show that captures the genius of a man whose theatrical career was overshadowed by his brother's notorious deed.

On June 14, Sloan performed the latest iteration of the play, “Haunted Prince: A Requiem for Edwin Booth,” at the Brian Friel Theatre in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was scheduled to perform the show again in November at D.C.'s Metropolitan Club. Sloan also hopes to take the show on tour to Shakespearean festivals and universities around the country, and perhaps to film a version.

Sloan, co-head of the Master of Fine Arts in Acting program, has appeared in 30 Shakespeare productions. In his play, he uses Booth's own words and those of the Shakespearean characters he portrayed to reenact crucial moments from Booth's life until his death on June 7, 1893. Material for the play derives from Booth's letters, stories, and soliloquies.

“Booth was extremely lyrical. He sounded like [British actor] John Gielgud,” said Sloan. “In the play, I'm trying to find the poetic bridge between then and now.”

Of his dedication to Booth's story, Sloan said, “We choose heroes to inspire us and after a while we realize their stories may have chosen us. I confess that I feel compelled to tell the world that an actor by the name of Edwin Booth was not his brother the assassin, but rather America's most celebrated Hamlet.” — C.L.



## Brandon Vaidyanathan

### “We Need to Know How Culture Works”

Brandon Vaidyanathan, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, joined the faculty in 2017. He has published articles on a variety of topics, including organizational culture at call centers in India and the frequent failure of sociology as a discipline to take religion seriously. He has two books coming out in the spring: *Mercenaries and Missionaries*, from Cornell University Press, and *Secularity and Science* (co-author), from Oxford University Press.

#### You've been busy with two forthcoming books. What are they about?

*Mercenaries and Missionaries* is about corporate professionals and religion, looking particularly at Catholics in India and the Middle East. ‘Mercenaries’ and ‘missionaries’ are words they use to describe themselves. They said, “I'm not loyal

to the company; all I care about is the cash. The company doesn't care about me, so why should I care about it?” They're in cutthroat workplaces and don't trust each other. The same people, in their churches, saw themselves as missionaries to other Christians, cultivating trust and healing in prayer groups. They're juggling these very different kinds of moral orientations. What are the social consequences?

The other book, *Secularity and Science*, addresses the common myth about science and religion being in conflict. We went to eight countries and surveyed some 10,000 physicists and biologists around the world, and interviewed more than 600, to see what scientists actually think. Most of them are not hostile to religion. In fact, they see science and religion as completely separate realms. And a smaller majority saw them as compatible;

they thought that faith could motivate scientific pursuit. They see a kind of divine injunction to know the world. Hindus talk about science itself as being a form of spirituality.

#### How do you explain the failure of some sociologists to take religion seriously?

People still don't see religion as an important part of the social world. They're blind to it, and I don't know how you can afford that in today's environment. It's crucial to understand how religion works, the good and the bad.

#### Do you draw on Washington, D.C., in your course on social problems?

We're starting this semester to go into the city. The assignment for the students, after talking about a problem in class, is to look at people and organizations in D.C. who are trying to tackle this issue. What's working for them? What's not working? Students are going to go into the city, do some research, and then come back and share it with the class.

#### What are some of your goals for the Department of Sociology?

Our department is coming up on its 125th anniversary and there are a few important sociologists who've come out of it, or were part of it. I'd love to figure out how to continue their legacy. I'm interested in reaching out to alumni to get their input in shaping the future of our department and how we can be of better service to them. I'd like to partner more with faculty in psychology, theology, philosophy, and so on.

I think people need to understand how culture works. Institutions develop cultures that are independent of the values that they profess. That happens in businesses, churches, medical institutions, and elsewhere. One of the things I would love to do, as I think about rebuilding the department, is offer courses on health and society. That would help people going into premed or nursing programs to understand the occupational cultures that they find in different hospitals. That's an area in which sociology is really useful.

— G.V.

## The Power of Perseverance

“I look at football as an avenue to help young men become who they’re supposed to be,” says Cardinals Football Coach Mike Gutelius, B.A. 1992. “It’s not just about football. It’s about making sure players balance three different elements of their life: their athletic side, their academic side, and their social side. I want to see growth in all three areas.”

During the off-season, Gutelius organized a challenge. Groups of players competed for points by earning good grades, attending workout sessions, and participating in service. The winning team earned matching pullovers and a highly coveted prize: the privilege of being served first at team meals. The point of the challenge, Gutelius says, was to help athletes learn how to “accept immediate discomfort for prolonged happiness.”

“I’m working with the athletes daily on how to make decisions in line with their values,” says Gutelius, who has coached at Catholic University since 2017. “The hard thing for a young person — especially young men — to understand is that

pleasure cannot be sustained beyond the activity that allows it. Lasting or enduring joy comes from hard work.”

Gutelius believes his time on the field at Catholic University helped him grow into the person he is today. Chief among the lessons he learned as an athlete was perseverance.

“Football is one of the toughest sports because it asks you to endure physical pain every day, and to prepare for thousands of hours to play maybe 30 hours in a season,” he says. “I remember learning that if I could make it through a day at training camp when everything in my body hurt, while still getting up in the morning and giving it everything I could, then I could do other hard things.”

This year, his team had plenty of opportunities to take these lessons to heart. A challenge for Gutelius was keeping team spirits high despite a streak of losses.

“My job as a coach is to get them to not worry about last week’s game, but to try and get better with each rep, each practice, and each day,” Gutelius says. “If you can learn how to handle

a loss with grace and a desire to recommit and persist — if you can do that in football — you can translate that to anything else in life.”

Senior Mike Alberto, tight end, says he has enjoyed having Gutelius as a coach “because of the energy and passion that he brings to the field every day.

“Coach Gutelius not only wants his players to excel in their four years at Catholic University, but also to take what they learn through football and school and apply these skills for the rest of their lives,” Alberto says.

Sean Sullivan, associate vice president and director of athletics, says that, despite a tough season, he has “little doubt that Mike will bring great success to our football program.

“The on-the-field success may be what’s most visible, and that will come, but what’s equally important is the totality of experiences shared by members of the team,” Sullivan says. “How are they contributing to our larger community? What opportunities in their major or chosen field are they seeking out and benefiting from? Mike cares about

such things and as a result, he is raising the bar of expectation and opportunity across the board.”

Many of the lessons Gutelius passes on to his students are those he practices himself, especially when it comes to his Catholic faith. After nearly two decades of coaching at different colleges around the country — the majority of which were non-Catholic — he has a new appreciation for the “quiet undercurrent” of spirituality he sees at Catholic University.

“I’ve found the same things help in faith as on the football field,” he says. “When it comes to faith, you have to practice it, you have to buy into it, and you have to be willing to submit to it if you want long-term happiness.”

Gutelius also enjoys watching his athletes graduate and move on to other things, including successful careers and families.

“It will bring tears to your eyes,” he says. “Most of the guys here have wonderful parents who have helped them along, but to know that we’ve played even a small part in helping them become leaders and good people, that means so much.” — K.B.



Will Summe

## Field Hockey Coach and Player Find Matching Success

There is a saying in sports that players often exhibit the qualities and behavior of their coach. Nowhere is that more evident than on the Catholic University field hockey team.

As a player, head coach Heidi Lewis was a four-year starter at nearby Division I American University, where she graduated in 2006. She was also a four-time National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) All-Academic Team and College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America First Team selection while being named Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year and the league’s nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year.

In three seasons since being named the head field hockey coach in 2016, Lewis has led the Cardinals to a 20–1 regular season record in the Landmark Conference. Along the way, she has recruited and mentored student-athletes who exemplify her vision of success both on and off the field. One such student was Kelly Cousoulis, a three-year starter on the field hockey team, who graduated in 2018 with honors and a degree in politics.

Just like her coach, Cousoulis was named conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year and nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. She was also a two-time NFHCA All-American, a four-time NFHCA National Academic Squad honoree and three-time Landmark Conference Academic Honor Roll selection. Today, she is enrolled in law school at George Mason University.

“What makes Kelly both a great athlete and a great student is her willingness to commit to growth,” says Lewis. “She puts in the work day in and day out, without complaint or needing the spotlight. That constant effort and faith in the process paid huge dividends in her career on and off the field.”

— J.E.

