

## IN YOUR WORDS

Comments from the University Community

### A HAPPY READER RESPONDS

The new *CatholicU* magazine is outstanding. So much interesting and relevant news, and the photos are very attractive. The magazine reflects the wonderful Catholic identity, spirit, and commitment to all that is the best. Such a publication doesn't come without a lot of vision, wisdom, commitment, and hard work. Thanks to all of you.

— MONSIGNOR J. TERRENCE FITZGERALD

### MEMORIES OF A EUROPEAN IDYLL

I enjoyed the article in the summer issue ["Daughter of the Wind"] about the island of Pantelleria, which brought back some old memories. In 1975, Catholic University architecture students participated in a spring/summer program divided between Rome, Italy, and Fontainebleau, France. I was fortunate to join them. While both curriculums included traditional studio and class time, it was the field trips that I best remember. Major sites such as Chateau Versailles and Villa d'Este were impressive, but it was the lesser-known sites, such as Vaux-le-Vicomte and Palazzo Spada, that I found most interesting (the latter was on an inadvertent detour). These, together with a colorful cast of faculty — including the French actor Alain Cuny — made the experience unforgettable. I remain a student of the old master builders and their works. And some day, maybe I'll get to Pantelleria.

— DAVE PATTERSON, R.A.,  
B.S.ARCH. 1975, M.ARCH. 1977

### OLIVEIRA LIMA IN PERNAMBUCO

I started as assistant to the curator of the Oliveira Lima Library in fall 1964, working under Manoel Cardozo, who was also my professor in Brazilian history.

Manoel Oliveira Lima's life story ["A Friend of Books," summer 2018] fascinated me, and being surrounded by his beloved books, works of art, and antique personal furniture was like



being an antiquarian. I was fortunate to be able to greet many notable visitors to the library. Of these, I recall American author John Dos Passos and Jeane Kirkpatrick, ambassador to the United Nations. Ambassador Vasco Leitao da Cunha, historian Sérgio Buarque de Holanda, and Gilberto Freyre, sociologist, were just a few of the many Brazilians who visited.

The experience helped me to receive a scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. I finished my M.A. dissertation, "Oliveira Lima in Pernambuco" in 1969. It was at USP that I met my wife, a teacher of Brazilian history. Contacts I had made at the Library were of immense help when I arrived in Brazil.

I hope that this treasure of Luso-Brazilian studies will be properly funded and enhanced in order to perpetuate its mission.

— R. J. LUKE WILLIAMS,  
B.A. 1964, M.A. 1969

### A SCHOLAR'S PARADISE

Studying Brazilian history in the Lima Library was an extraordinary experience. One day, Manoel Cardozo handed around for each of us to hold the only surviving copy of the Declaration of Independence of the Pernambucan revolt of 1817. Another day, it was a religious book taken from the body of

Francisco Solano López, the ruler of Paraguay, when he was killed at the battle of Cerro Corá. I congratulate the University on its efforts to restore the facility and bring its treasures to an international audience.

— BILL GRIBBIN, B.A. 1965,  
M.A. 1966, PH.D. 1968

### AN ARTIST'S CAREER

So glad that you asked about how I used my M.F.A. ["Stories to Tell," summer 2018]! For 44 years, it has been central to what I have done professionally. I have taught art on every level from pre-K to college, in summer schools, and in informal classes and workshops. The ceramic studio from which I create custom tiles, sculpture, and murals for residential and commercial spaces is 25 years old this year.

Involvement with the community has been a major feature of my work. I initiated a month-long celebration involving visual artists, musicians, performers, poets, and dancers in Metuchen, N.J.

Over the years, I established three community art galleries. At this juncture, I am primarily focusing on creating work for exhibit. My hope is to develop bodies of work out of my own spirituality.

— LINDA VONDERSCHMIDT-LASTELLA,  
M.F.A. 1984

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. WRITE TO US AT  
[cua-magazine@cua.edu](mailto:cua-magazine@cua.edu)