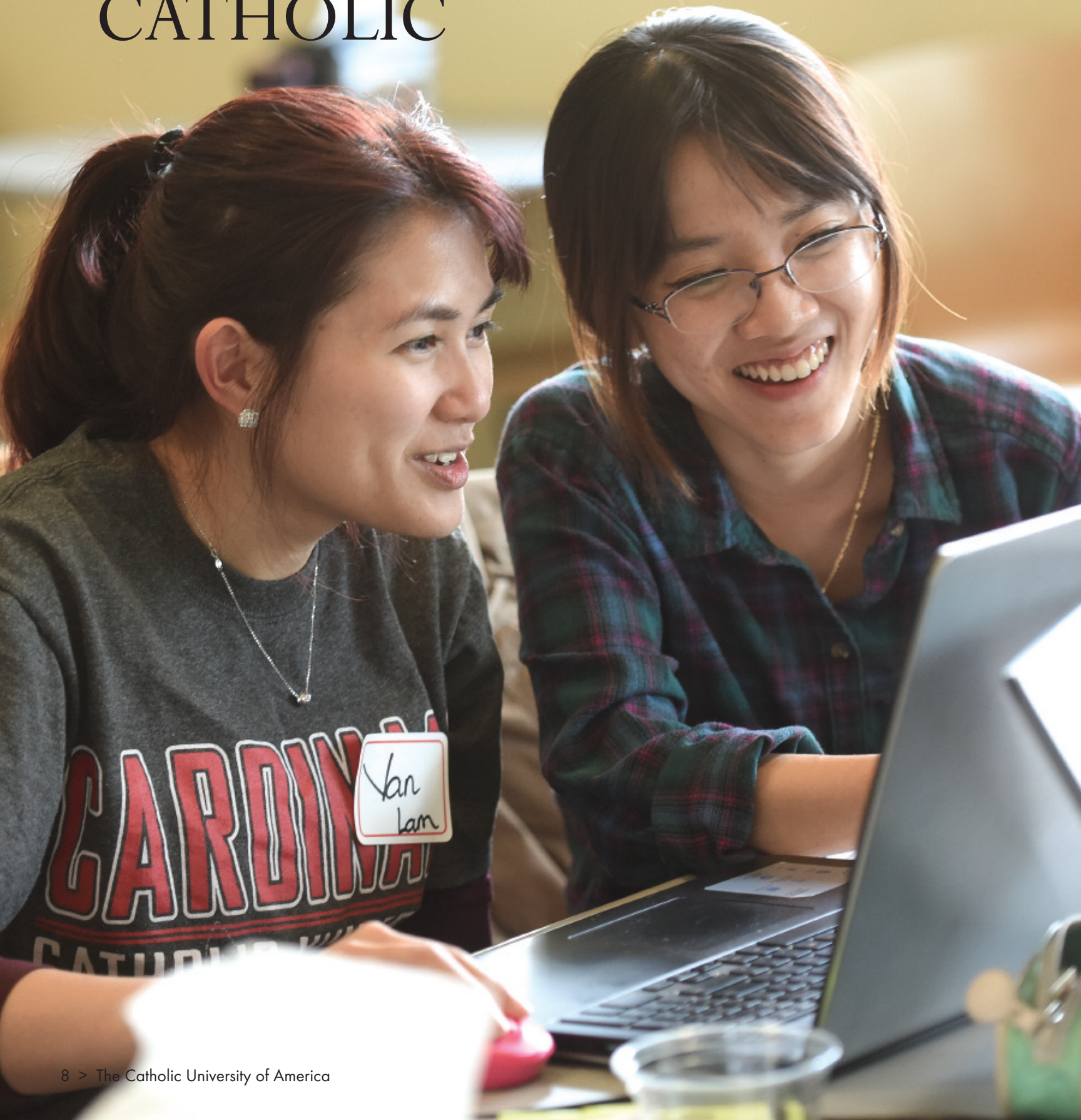


AROUND CATHOLIC



▶ Hackers Compete Locally and in Rome

Forty students were challenged to use data science and engineering skills to improve the lives of the homeless during the University's first hackathon, which was hosted by the School of Engineering on Jan. 27 in collaboration with the D.C. Department of Human Services.

Students split into teams for the event, dubbed "Hacking Homelessness." After some initial presentations, teams were given just over four hours to work on their projects. Vy Bui, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, worked with her teammates on an app that uses mapping technology similar to that used by Uber, the rideshare app. If manufactured, it would help social workers locate people in need and determine if they had been approached previously. Bui's team won first place.

"This app would save time and make work easier for social workers," Bui said. "They'll have less traveling and they could help more people."

The hackathon was inspired by a "global grand challenge" issued in 2008 by the National Academy of Engineering to renew urban infrastructure. The Grand Challenge Scholars Program prepares students to tackle some of the largest problems of the 21st century. Catholic University's engineering school is one of only a few Catholic engineering programs in the United States to participate in the program.

The event was sponsored by Rocket Software, headed by CEO Andy Youniss, B.S. 1983, which provided Oculus Rift virtual reality headsets to each member of the winning team.

A team of five students from the University hackathon went on to compete in "VHacks," the first hackathon at the Vatican, which took place in March. At VHacks, the assignment was to conceive a product that would foster interfaith dialogue. Bui was joined by LeQuan Clinton, a master's student in architecture and planning; Emma Flanagan, a sophomore studying business and marketing; Van Lam, a doctoral student in biomedical engineering; and Michael Monaghan, a senior studying computer science.

They created a web application called Faithstrings, which would allow users to immerse themselves in different faith communities through virtual reality. The design earned the team second place and a \$1,000 prize. The team also won an award for best utilization of Salesforce's Technology Platforms, earning each member a new iPad.

"Our students are always looking for ways that they can apply their education to solve real problems," said John Judge, dean of engineering, who accompanied the team to Rome. — K.B.

“ Our students are always looking for ways that they can apply their education to solve real problems. ”



Scholars Reflect on *Humanae Vitae*

Hundreds of clergy, religious, and lay ministers from around the country gathered at Catholic University in April for a symposium exploring Blessed Paul VI's writings on sexuality and family life, as laid out in the landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

The symposium, "Embracing God's Vision for Marriage, Love, and Life," commemorated the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. The event was sponsored by Catholic University; the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, and Family; the Witherspoon Institute; and numerous individual donors.

In his keynote address, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput explained how the release of Pope Paul VI's encyclical "revealed deep wounds in the Church about our understanding of the human person, the nature of sexuality, and marriage as God created it."

"We still seek the cure for those wounds," he said.

The archbishop's keynote was followed by two days of in-depth discussion of *Humanae Vitae*, including doctrinal, philosophical, and scientific support for the teachings. Additional speakers talked about how Paul VI's teachings can support families, including those experiencing infertility, and ways in which the Church can heal after decades of discord surrounding teachings on sexuality and marriage.

Sharing and Learning on Research Day

Law professor Cara Drinan shared real-life examples of how research can save lives and protect children during a keynote address based on the findings in her recent book, *The War on Kids: How American Juvenile Justice Lost Its Way* on University Research Day. The day-long event on April 19 gathered students, faculty, and staff members to present their academic findings to the University community.

Drinan's lecture was one of more than 250 presentations, covering a wide range of subjects, including gentrification, biomedical devices, American history, and particle physics.

The day's events also included student musical and dramatic performances and an art display exploring the relationship between physics and art. Food trucks filled the library parking lot, adding to the festival-like atmosphere. The day concluded with an award ceremony recognizing the efforts of participating students and faculty members.

University President John Garvey said the large number of research presentations and the wide scope of disciplines reflected what makes Catholic University special.

"Research Day gets people excited about the projects they're working on," said senior Ali Gole, who gave a poster presentation on the rates of organ donation around the world. "It made me work a little bit harder knowing that I would be presenting it and sharing it with everyone here."

— K.B.



1,620 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees were conferred during Commencement.



'Tell a New Story for a New America'

New graduates were challenged to share their gifts for the betterment of the country as Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez addressed the Class of 2018 during the University's 129th annual Commencement ceremony in May.

Archbishop Gomez, a member of the University's Board of Trustees, was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and later became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Since 2011, he has led the largest archdiocese in the United States.

The archbishop recalled being present for Pope Francis's Mass at Catholic University in which the Pope canonized St. Junípero Serra and referred to him as one of our nation's founders. Though Americans usually begin the story of the country's origin with figures like George Washington and events like the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Archbishop Gomez noted that "the American story started long before that," with migrant missionaries like St. Junípero, who shared the Gospel with the native people of the Southwest.

"America's founders — including Padre Serra — dreamed of a nation where men and women from every race, religion, and national background could live in equality," the archbishop said. "Their vision helped make this a great nation, exceptional in human history — blessed with freedom and committed to sharing our blessings with the whole human race."

Since those early days, the archbishop noted, our country's history has included tragedy and "violent betrayals of our deepest values," but we have always held a collective vision that has pushed us to "try to make things right and better."

New graduates, the archbishop remarked, are "entering an American society

that is more anxious and more bitterly divided than I have ever seen in my lifetime." The challenge, he said, is to help our fellow citizens remember "our national purpose."

The archbishop told graduates to take inspiration from the lives of Americans who have lived with holiness and heroism. Those people include saints in the Catholic tradition as well as countless other "saints of the everyday ... working hard to do what is right."

"The new America is a story that we are writing with our lives. By the decisions we make, and by the way we treat other people," he said. "My prayer for you is that you will write a story that is filled with goodness, love and service, with prayer and giving thanks for simple gifts. I pray that you will always seek to know what is right — and have the courage to do it."

The archbishop was presented with an honorary doctorate of theology. Four other immigrants also received honorary degrees, including Toufic Baaklini, president and chairman of the board of the nonprofit organization In Defense of Christians; Maria Suarez Hamm, who served as the longtime executive director of Centro Tepeyac in Silver Spring, Md.; Dina Katabi, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Ray Mahmood, founder of the Mahmood Investment Corp.

"What an honor it is to share this podium with these distinguished Americans," Archbishop Gomez said. "What a witness. We are truly a nation that thrives on the gifts of people from every land." — K.B.

Choir Performs with Los Angeles Philharmonic

Catholic University choir members had a rare opportunity on April 26, to perform alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by the renowned music director Gustavo Dudamel. The students performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the orchestra during a concert presented by Washington Performing Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Catholic University was the only university invited to participate in the concert, and students sang in a chorus drawing from several prestigious choral groups, including the Washington Chorus, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, and members of the Washington Performing Arts Men and Women of the Gospel Choir. School of Music alumnus Kevin McCarthy, B.M. 1977; his wife Debbie, B.A. 1978; and their McCarthy Family Foundation underwrote a reception prior to the concert for alumni, parents, and friends of the University.

Performing alongside an orchestra that has been hailed by *The New York Times* as "the most important orchestra in America" was "the experience of a lifetime for students," said Timothy McDonnell, Catholic University's director of choral activities and the Institute of Sacred Music. A particularly thrilling aspect of the performance, he said, was working with Dudamel, who is widely recognized as one of the most skilled conductors in the world.

"I can't emphasize enough how important Maestro Dudamel is in the world of music," he said. "This is like our students sharing the stage with Bernstein, or Toscanini, or Mahler."

Among the student singers was Stephanie Kocka, a double major in math and musical performance. Kocka had sung in the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall once before, during the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music's 50th Anniversary Concert in 2015.

"What a way to go out, we came full circle and got to sing in the same place twice," she said. "Not many people get to do these kinds of things and yet our school has found these amazing opportunities for its students." — K.B.



Music Students Shine in 'Bernstein at 100'

Students from the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music brought their musical talents to Arena Stage in January, during a three-night engagement honoring the life and work of renowned composer, conductor, and musician Leonard Bernstein.

"Bernstein at 100: The Theater Songs of Leonard Bernstein," was a musical showcase highlighting Bernstein's most beloved theatrical music, including songs from *West Side Story*, *A Party with Comden and Green*, *Wonderful Town*, *Peter Pan*, and other shows.

The night included performances from students in the Musical Theatre Division and the Catholic University Symphony Orchestra, as well as professional musicians from the area, including special guest Kurt Boehm, who earned his bachelor of music from Catholic University in 2005.

"It's been wonderful to see the students fall in love with this music," said N. Thomas Pedersen, head of the Musical Theatre Division. "And it's a wonderful opportunity for them to celebrate one of the greatest American composers in one of our country's premiere American theatres."

Board Approves Academic Renewal Plan

The University's Board of Trustees voted to approve proposed Academic Renewal plans in June. These plans have the specific objectives of enhancing the University's research reputation, supporting sustainable teaching excellence, and enabling significant revenue improvements, all the while respecting and upholding the governing documents of the University.

Initiatives in the plan include the opening of a new Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art in order to foster cross-disciplinary artistic efforts on campus; the return of the Department of Economics to the School of Arts and Sciences; and the addition of new programs and faculty.

Additional plans include renovations to Mullen Library, science laboratories, classrooms, and studio, performance, and rehearsal spaces; as well as increased support for faculty members through the establishment of a new Center for Teaching Excellence, which will engage our senior scholars with junior faculty members.

In a communication to the University community in June, President Garvey said the renewal plans demonstrate an ongoing commitment to growth at the University.

Visit catholic.edu/academics/academic-renewal for more information on the plan for academic renewal.



Veterans Honored at Drama Performance

Veterans and active members of the military enjoyed an evening of dinner and theatre on April 19, as the Department of Drama partnered with the Gary Sinise Foundation to host Vets Night. As part of the evening, military members were treated to dinner in Caldwell Auditorium as well as a preview performance of the University production of *Our Town*.

Our Town, written by Thornton Wilder in 1938, chronicles the story of a small American town through the lives of its many residents. The University production featured an all-student cast and was directed by Matt Ripa, M.F.A. 2008.

Service members in attendance came from various bases and institutions in the Washington, D.C. area, including the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Fort Belvoir, the U.S.O, and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA.

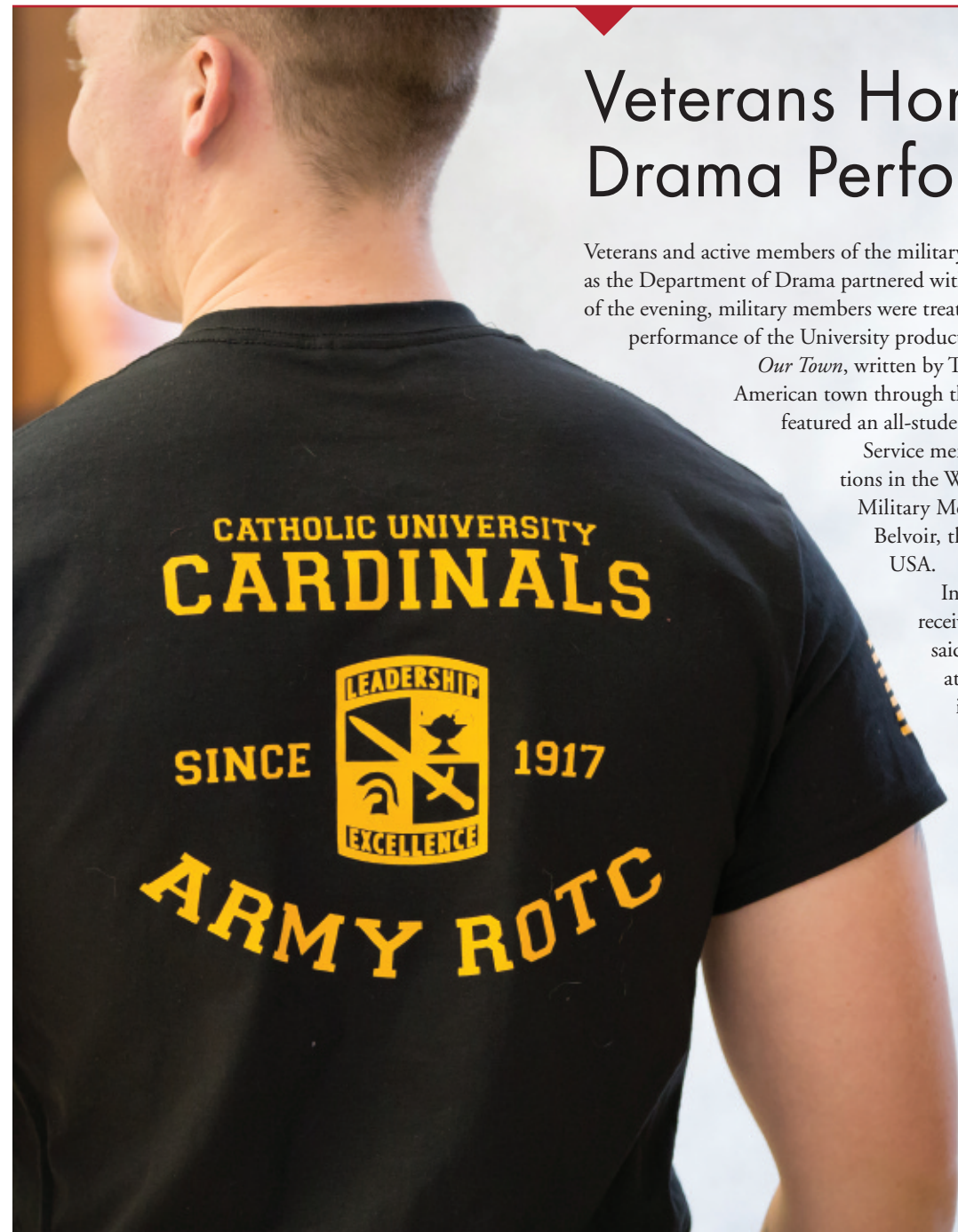
In an introductory video at the event, actor Gary Sinise, who received the University's 2017 James Cardinal Gibbons Medal, said the evening was an extension of a long-standing tradition at Steppenwolf Theatre which he helped found in Chicago in 1974.

"To all you veterans in the audience, we're grateful for everything you've done for this country," Sinise said. "Vets Night is a simple way of showing appreciation for your service, sacrifice, and bravery."

Senior Christina Rimbey, an international business major who is also a member of Army ROTC, was volunteering as a greeter for the night's event.

"We are who we are because of the people who came before us," said Rimbey, who was commissioned in the Army this May. "It's a great experience being able to give back to the people who paved the way for people like me."

Photos by Rui Barros





Julia Young on America's Legacy of Immigration

Julia Young's roots at Catholic University go deep. Her father, Malcolm Young, J.D. 1974, graduated from the law school, and her mother, Robin Darling Young, teaches in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. After graduating *summa cum laude* from the University in 2001, Julia earned graduate degrees from New York University and the University of Chicago. She returned as an assistant professor in the Department of History in 2011, and was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2017. Her book, *Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War* (Oxford University Press, 2015), explores how religious conflict shapes migrant identities. Her research interests include Mexican and Latin American history, the Catholic Church in Latin America, and global migrations.

What gives *Mexican Exodus* contemporary relevance?

To me, what's most relevant about the book now is the story it tells about immigrants as labor migrants, religious refugees, and political exiles. The story continues to be relevant because in the United States, we're continuing to debate migration. People make a lot of arguments to justify building walls and closing borders, and what I've found as a historian is that those arguments have been reiterated and recycled over time. The arguments focusing on the criminality of migrants is something that we've seen many times in the past, and now we're seeing again, particularly with this new administration.

What role does the labor market play in immigration?

The economy and the labor market are fundamental drivers of migration. If migrants couldn't find jobs here, they wouldn't stay here, or they wouldn't come. If we continue to look the other way when employers hire undocumented immigrants, then they will keep coming, because they don't have opportunities in their home countries. We're beckoning them to come with one hand and stopping them with the other, and we don't do much to penalize employers who hire undocumented labor. Instead, we detain, deport, and punish migrants. We are all complicit in this, because we want our strawberries to be cheap and we need someone to pick our tomatoes. And we don't want to pay a lot more at the grocery store. People often say Americans won't take those jobs. They would take those jobs if they were paid better.

How should we address the issue?

Every time anti-immigration legislation has been passed it has generated unintended consequences, and it has not accomplished what it set out to do.

We have to decide as a country if we're going to continue to be a nation of immigrants. We're always vacillating between being proud of our heritage as a nation of immigrants and debating whom to exclude. I wish we would decide that we do want some positions to be filled by immigrant labor, and then figure out a way to let labor migrants in legally and make sure they're treated well. And I wish that we would continue to position ourselves as a destination country for people who are suffering under terrible political conditions. I think it's a huge tragedy that we're turning away from our role as a country of refuge and asylum.

This is where the Catholic Church is playing a tremendously important role. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has advocated for immigrants and for humane and just immigration law for a long time, as have many other Catholic organizations, such as Catholic Charities USA and CLINIC. And Pope Francis has continuously advocated for immigrant rights and dignity.

Is there something that surprised you when you began teaching here?

When I was a kid here, I would pretend I was a college student. What surprised me when I came back is how young college students are. I see students here as if they've just left the nest for the first time; they're popping their heads up and looking out into the world. I get to teach these courses on Latin America and introduce them to this very different world, and watch them look at the United States through a different lens.

Sometimes I teach in classrooms where I took a class 20 years ago, and I have this dreadful sense of how much I've forgotten. What can I leave them with that they will remember? I try to focus on showing them this region of the world, introducing them to some issues and historical events that they didn't know about, and getting them to think in new ways.

It's an honor to be back here as a faculty member, and I'm incredibly impressed by my colleagues in the history department. They published seven books this year! The people that I work with in my department and across the University are really pleasant colleagues, but also they just know a lot, and produce a lot, and I'm proud to be working with them. — G.V.

A Banner Year for History Books

Faculty in the Department of History published seven books in the 2017–18 academic year, an all-time high in a single year.

Professor **Lawrence Poos's** co-edited text with Lloyd Bonfield, *Reports of Sir Peter King, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1714–22*, is a volume of notes compiled by Sir Peter King when he was chief justice of one of England's two principal common-law courts.

Department Chair **Katherine L. Jansen's** book *Peace and Penance in Late Medieval Italy* takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine how civic peacemaking in the age of Dante was forged in the crucible of penitential religious practice.

Professor **Jerry Muller's** *The Tyranny of Metrics* examines the modern mania for quantification of human performance and its effects on all sectors of society including education, medicine, business and finance, government, and more.

Associate Professor **Árpád von Klimó** published two books: *Hungary Since 1945*, a translation and update of his German publication, which provides the only synthesis in English on the events and history of Hungary in this period of modern history; and the monograph *Remembering Cold Days: The 1942 Novi Sad Massacre and the Transformation of Hungarian Society (1942–1989)*, the first book to focus on this massacre of over 1,000 Jews and Serbs by the authoritarian Hungarian regime.

Associate Professor **Caroline Sherman's** book, *The Uses of the Dead: The Early Modern Development of Cy-Près Doctrine* is a revisionist history of the Cy-près doctrine, a formulation that allows a donor's intention of a charitable gift to be changed.

Assistant Professor **Lev Weitzi's** *Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam* looks at the marital practices of the Syriac Christian communities, set within the larger framework of the multi-confessional society of early Islam.



“ Standing right at the border dividing El Paso from Ciudad Juarez was a humbling moment. ”

Immigration Encounter

Students reflect after an immersion trip to the Mexican Border

Sixteen students traveled to El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M., this spring to experience firsthand the realities faced by migrants, and to learn about the efforts made by Catholic organizations in these dioceses to respond to their needs. The trip and accompanying class, sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry for the third consecutive year, were led by Sister Ruth Harkins, associate campus minister for graduate and professional students, and Dean William Rainford of the National Catholic School of Social Service. The group was also joined by Jeanne Garvey, wife of University President John Garvey, and Deacon Steve Kaneb, who serves on the University's Board of Trustees.

As part of the trip, students participated in service work by preparing meals and working in onion fields with migrants. They also spent time listening and learning — speaking with U.S. Border Patrol agents, immigration lawyers, farmers, students, religious sisters, and undocumented immigrants facing deportation.

Mathew Suhosky and **Nicole Pope**, both politics majors, were among

the students participating in this year's trip. Here, they reflect on what they learned and how they were moved during their week of immersion.

What affected you most on the trip?

Nicole: Standing right at the border dividing El Paso from Ciudad Juarez was a humbling moment. It was surreal to see that the “border” before the 12-foot metal barriers were put in place over the past decade was three pieces of chicken wire tied to railroad ties. Looking down at the two landscapes, the border seemed almost artificial — the ways of life at either side separated only by a man-made structure and a 10-minute drive. Poverty on the Mexican side of the border was something I was prepared for, but I was deeply unsettled by the amount of poverty in the impoverished barrios within our own country. Still, in the midst of so much adversity, every person we encountered was ready to welcome us in a way that I have never experienced anywhere else.

Matt: As we encountered so many individuals who seemed to be treated

unfairly or damaged by immigration policy, we wondered if there was any sort of practical solution to such an ingrained problem, or any notion of hope for a seemingly hopeless situation. Fortunately, we were given the opportunity to speak with several individuals and representatives from Catholic Charities, the HOPE Border Institute, and several other organizations that are changing the treatment of immigrants and fighting injustices on a more personal level, focusing on individual charity rather than broad reforms to policy. We visited several nuns who provide prenatal vitamins and physical therapy to immigrants and their children, legal aid organizations that provide low-cost or pro-bono representation to immigrants, and churches where communities have banded together when a parishioner was in distress. This gave me a great sense of hope, and though these actions may not seem to change our immigration system collectively, they have an extraordinary impact on those they serve and those who witness their kindness.

What was your main takeaway?

Matt: The class we took in accordance with the trip and the trip itself revealed my ignorance of immigration policy and its history, and gave me a sense of how deeply immigration is ingrained in our nation. A fascinating lecture by the Department of History's Julia Young (see page 14) detailed the long and complex history of Mexican and Central American immigration to our nation, and helped our class understand this immigration not as a recent

phenomenon, but rather a century-long exchange of people and goods that has origins beyond our nation's history. It became clear on our trip that this history of immigration has been paralleled by a series of complex laws governing entry into our nation that has made legal immigration into this country a feat that can be nearly impossible for some.

What will you remember most?

Nicole: Putting myself in the shoes of people who are in the middle of policy decisions, whether that be migrants themselves or the Border Patrol agents that protect our country, lends an entirely new perspective of what it means for the United States to have a just immigration policy. Throughout the trip I was time and again struck with the gravity of the problems asylum seekers from Mexico and Central America face, and how much the dignity of these individuals needs to be protected.

On the first night of our stay at the Holy Cross Retreat Center, several families of Honduran refugees came into the dining room as we were having dinner. A young child came to our table and gave each of us a hug and a kiss. The complete trust and pure love that he felt, even after what we learned had been a 36-day trek through some of the most dangerous places in the world, made it impossible to ignore the fact that each one of us could have just as easily had his life if we had only been born to a different circumstance.



Building a Diving Powerhouse

Joey Soraghan finished his college diving career on top this spring. Not only did he contribute points that helped bring the University's Swimming and Diving team to its second consecutive championship title, but he was also honored individually as Diver of the Year in the Landmark Conference, placing first in the 1-meter dive with a score of 381.70, and second in the 3-meter with a score of 340.20 total points.

It was a victorious finale for Soraghan, who is now in his final year of the double major program in civil engineering and architecture. It was also a triumphant turn of events for the University diving program, which began four years ago with Soraghan as the first diver to compete for Catholic University in 20 years. Now, the program is a powerhouse in its conference, thanks to the work of Soraghan and his coach Meaghan Abelein (pictured, top right).

The pair developed a close bond during Soraghan's freshman year, when he was the only diver on the University swimming team. After Soraghan placed third in both the 1-meter and 3-meter dives at the Landmark championships during his sophomore year, they were inspired to step up his training.

"We were building something special," Abelein said. "We realized that if we pushed, we could do great things."

As more divers joined the team, Soraghan became both a champion and a leader. He broke University records in all four diving categories,

Rui Barros



including the 3-meter 11-dive, the 3-meter 6-dive, the 1-meter 11-dive, and the 1-meter 6-dive. He also placed second on both the 3-meter and 1-meter at the 2017 Landmark Conference Championships and scored points that helped the Swimming and Diving team become conference champions for the first time.

After Soraghan was named a Diver of the Year this spring, he was thrilled to receive his medal from Abelein.

"I was excited that Megg was the one who was able to hand me that medal, and give me that hug while I was standing on the podium," he said. "It was just this great feeling and the icing on the cake for my final year."

Athletics Director Sean Sullivan said Abelein deserves great credit for nurturing the program and working tirelessly with Soraghan and the other divers. He also credits Soraghan for his determination and drive.

"Someone had to step up first and say, 'I want to do that, I want to make that real, and make it viable,' and Joey did just that," said Sullivan. "He not only became a conference champion, but he also recruited other divers and led the way with his behavior and his responsibility to the craft and his training. He set the tone and established a major points-scoring operation within our swimming and diving team."

Abelein said she's proud of the team's accomplishments and grateful for the ongoing support of Sullivan and Swimming and Diving Coach Paul Waas. Looking forward, she is confident that the diving program will continue to grow and succeed.

"I see a lot of potential in the younger athletes," she said. "I'm excited to see the continuing growth of our program." — K.B.

Sport Shorts

Women's Lacrosse Claims 10th Landmark Crown

The women's lacrosse team won its fifth straight Landmark Conference Championship Title with an 18-10 victory over the University of Scranton in May. This is the Cardinals' 10th crown and second five-peat since the inaugural season of the Landmark Conference in 2007.

Junior Erin Dugan was honored as the Landmark Conference Championship Tournament's Most Valuable Player after winning six draw controls, scooping up five groundballs and causing three turnovers during the finals.

The Cardinals won two NCAA Tournament games, advancing to the NCAA Regional Semifinal as one of the final 16 teams in the country.

Baseball Captures Fifth Championship Title

The baseball team captured the 2018 Landmark Conference Championship Title over the University of Scranton. Facing elimination, the Cardinals took game six, 21-7 before clinching the championship in game 7, 10-7.

The Cardinals scored 31 runs on 31 hits in 18 innings. Senior Brennan Cotter was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after recording ten RBIs on eight hits over five games during the three-day tournament.

This is the team's fifth Landmark Title. Catholic earned the No. 8 seed in the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Region in York, Pa., where they played against No. 23 Babson College and Arcadia University.

