

ONWARD

John Carroll University Alumni Magazine



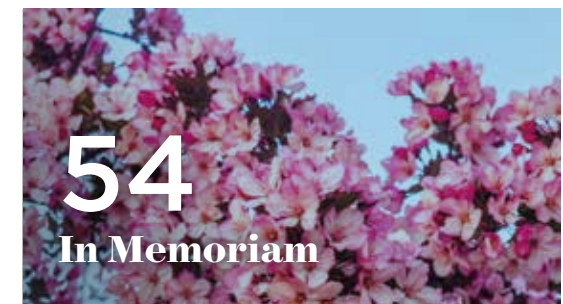
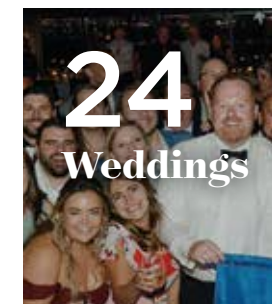
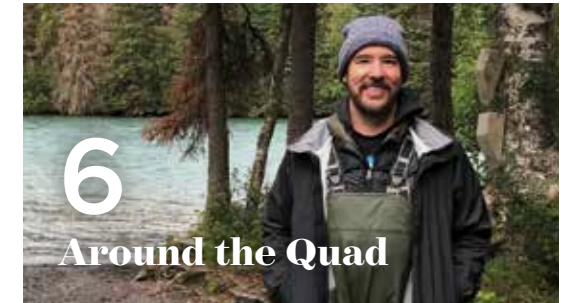
*Taking Cura
Personalis to
Another Level*

SPRING 2024

 John Carroll
UNIVERSITY



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University Advancement and

printed by AGS Custom Graphics.



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LETTER *from* THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The momentum surrounding our Inspired Futures strategy continues to build, and this issue of *Onward* highlights exciting markers of our progress.

The recent announcement of the College of Health was met with enthusiasm from our alumni and friends and, notably, from the renowned healthcare community in our region. This endeavor is a testament to our dedication to preparing graduates formed by their Jesuit education and committed to *cura personalis*. As we focus on integration across our academic portfolio, the College of Health will be central to this initiative through programs like Public Health, which intersects sociology, psychology, business, and political science.

As you'll read in a featured article, the Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding continues to emphasize sustained dialogue across campus during a time of complex and emotional discussions surrounding the conflict in the Middle East. Our commitment to fostering an environment where individuals of different faiths come together to engage in respectful conversations reflects our Jesuit Catholic mission, and I am proud of the leadership shown by the Tuohy Center faculty.

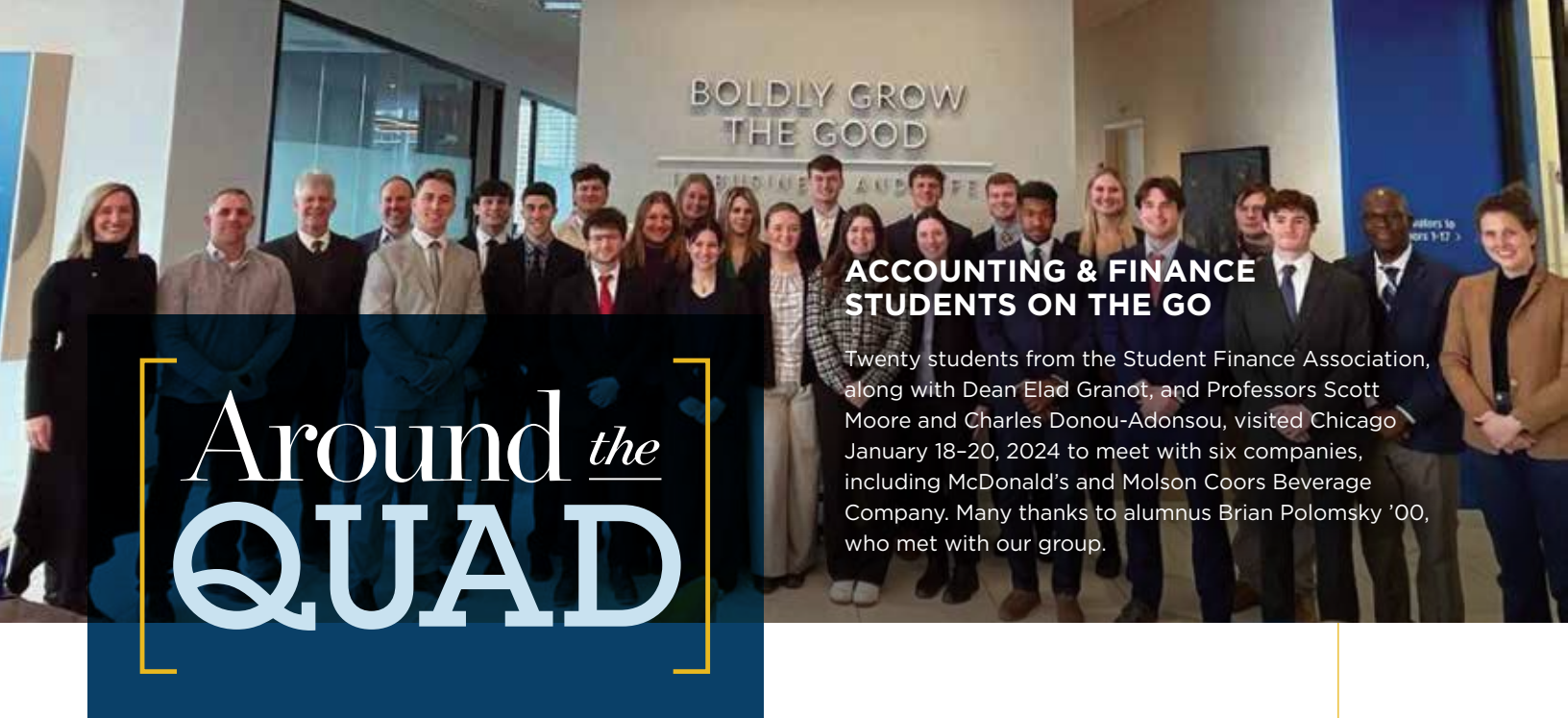
We also have momentum outside the classroom, as our Blue Streak athletes prepare to join the North Coast Athletic Conference in the fall of 2025. The move to the NCAC is a strategic and bold decision that aligns us with a group of academically and athletically competitive partners who enjoy national reach and reputations as high-ranking liberal arts institutions.

As we celebrate our progress, I am mindful that each achievement is a collective effort of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. Together, we are shaping the future of John Carroll University and ensuring that the promise of a John Carroll education endures for generations.

Regards,

Alan R. Miciak, Ph.D.

President, John Carroll University



ACCOUNTING & FINANCE STUDENTS ON THE GO

Twenty students from the Student Finance Association, along with Dean Elad Granot, and Professors Scott Moore and Charles Donou-Adonsou, visited Chicago January 18-20, 2024 to meet with six companies, including McDonald's and Molson Coors Beverage Company. Many thanks to alumnus Brian Polomsky '00, who met with our group.

Around *the* QUAD

Fourteen senior accounting students visited New York City and Washington, D.C., for a week in January 2024. The trip was funded largely by the Ernst & Young LLP Endowment and included visits with the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, EY's national office, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and a historic tour of Wall Street.



JCU PROFESSOR RECEIVES FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR AWARD

During the 2023-2024 academic year, **Matthew Berg, Ph.D., Professor of History**, is studying in Austria at the Austrian National Library and the University of Vienna, as he completes his book manuscript on post-conflict Austrian society following World War II.



RETIREMENTS

Peggy Finucane, Ph.D., '80
Professor of Communications

Retiring after 32 years at John Carroll, Dr. Finucane served as Chair of the Russert Communications Department, the Director of the Center for Service and Social Action, and helped create the Arrupe Scholars program at John Carroll.



Robert Bloom, Ph.D.
Professor of Accountancy

Retiring after 38 years teaching in the Accounting Department.



FACULTY AWARDS

2023 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
Walter Simmons, Ph.D.
Associate Dean & Professor of Economics



2023 LUCREZIA CULICCHIA AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
Edward Hahnenberg, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, and the Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology



JCU PROFESSOR PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL NATURE

James Watling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Science, was recently published in the journal *Nature*. Watling's paper focused on the effectiveness of Protected Areas for slowing the decline of tetrapods. Alex Murray '15, Ph.D., a Carroll alumnus, was one of the paper's co-authors.



This past fall, Blue Streak Ventures was launched; a student-run venture capital fund that collaborates with AnD Ventures, a world-class venture capital firm, to provide venture seeking companies with an array of services. For more information, please visit bluestreakventures.jcu.edu.

Around *the* QUAD

JCU JOINS THE NCAC

A NEW ERA FOR JOHN CARROLL ATHLETICS

by Rory O'Neil '06 & Mike Scanlan '06

Beginning in the fall of 2025, John Carroll University will become a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). Membership in the prestigious NCAC aligns with John Carroll's nationally competitive athletic programs and other liberal arts colleges and universities that share a focus on rigorous academics and high-level athletic programs. The Blue Streaks will become the tenth member of the Conference which includes institutions from Ohio and Indiana that serve students beyond the Midwest.

"Athletics has been an integral part of the student experience at John Carroll for more than a century and we are pleased to accept the invitation to join the NCAC during a pivotal time in our history," said Alan R. Miciak, Ph.D., John Carroll University President. "We are excited to align with a group of academically and athletically competitive partners in the NCAC who enjoy national reach and reputation as high-ranking liberal arts institutions."

Brian Polian '97, JCU's Athletic Director and a former student-athlete, added: "At John Carroll, students can pursue excellence in the classroom and on the playing field without sacrificing one for the other. We believe this announcement aligns John Carroll with peer institutions that share a common mission, and that attract students from across the country."

JCU will depart the Ohio Athletic Conference after being a member since the 1989-1990 academic year, as well as from 1932-1949. In between, JCU was a founding member of the Presidents Athletic Conference (PAC) in 1955, competing for 34 years in the PAC. JCU leaves the OAC having captured 190 conference championships (men's & women's). John Carroll has also won 12 OAC Men's All-Sports Trophies, including each of the last eight.

"We are excited to align with a group of academically and athletically competitive partners in the NCAC who enjoy national reach and reputation as high-ranking liberal arts institutions."

Alan R. Miciak, Ph.D.,
John Carroll University President

NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

WABASH COLLEGE

DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

OSHER COLLEGE

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

HIRAM COLLEGE

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

KENYON COLLEGE

DENISON UNIVERSITY



ATHLETICS ROUNDUP



MEN'S BASKETBALL RANKED #1 FOR FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY

For most of December and February, the John Carroll Men's Basketball team was ranked #1 in the nation for Division III by D3Hoops.com. The men's cagers entered the month of February undefeated in OAC regular season play (14-0), highlighted by a dominant 96-61 victory over Mount Union before a packed DeCarlo Varsity Center in January.



JCU X-COUNTRY THE OAC DOUBLE!

For the third consecutive year, both Men's and Women's Cross Country teams won the OAC Championships respectively. Coach Kyle Basista and his staff were awarded the Men's & Women's Coaching Staff of the Year award for the fourth season in a row, while sophomore Ian Paul won the OAC Rookie of the Year honor.

JCU WOMEN'S SOCCER MAGICAL NCAA ELITE 8 RUN

OAC Coach of the Year Mike Marich's team captured both the OAC Regular Season and OAC Tournament Championship en route to the best season in school history. The squad knocked out #8 Case Western Reserve University and #14 M.I.T. on their way to the Elite 8 for the first time ever. The team posted a 16-2-5 record and had six players achieve All-OAC status, including OAC Goalkeeper of the Year and Freshman of the Year Madeline Martin Kosier.



WOMEN'S WRESTLING A HISTORIC FIRST MATCH

History was made on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 in a packed DeCarlo Varsity Center as John Carroll Women's Wrestling became the 24th varsity sport at JCU. An electric crowd watched the first pin, the first victory, first (of many) standing ovations, and the first time JCU women wrestlers took to the mat wearing the Blue and Gold. Eight women wrestled for the first time (including four victories).

"I have been a part of JCU Wrestling as an athlete and coach for 15 years and I have been part of some special moments in DeCarlo Gymnasium, but nothing compares to the women's debut."

- Mark Hawald '05 • Head Coach

"This is one of my favorite moments I've ever had in wrestling. It was great to see the community band together for a moment like this."

Autumn Tomasello, Associate Head Coach



"Electrifying. The support from our fellow student athletes made me feel the most included I have ever felt in this sport so far. It felt good to feel like I belonged."

Jordan Palmer, Freshman

"The first dual match made me feel like I was on top of the world; the turnout from the Carroll community was amazing!"

Analese Ozanich, Freshman

"I loved the support from the University; it showed their excitement for our new team." - Gwennyth Edwards, Freshman

INSPIRED GRANT SUCCESS: PROPELLING PROGRAMS THROUGH GRANT SUPPORT

In the past five years, John Carroll University has significantly boosted institutional support, securing over \$11 million in grants from entities like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of the Navy, and more.

These grant awards highlight exceptional faculty in emerging fields, underscoring the University's dedication to scholarly endeavors and academic innovation for student benefit. The investments will address research needs for the College of Health and position John Carroll to extend its outcomes-focused reputation into new national markets in the coming years.

by Erica Kennedy, Rory O'Neil '06, and Rebecca Drenovsky, Ph.D.

\$11.5M TOTAL JCU GRANT AWARDS IN THE PAST 5 COMPLETED FISCAL YEARS

1 RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants are awarded to explore ideas and discover new approaches. The research grants JCU receives helps turn bright ideas into tangible solutions by supporting the quest for knowledge and breakthroughs.

2 SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

JCU scholarships aid ambitious students by covering tuition, fees, and room and board, making education more accessible and easing financial burdens.

3 PROGRAMMATIC GRANTS

Also referred to as "mission-driven change makers," programmatic grants make a positive impact in the JCU community. These grants support the special projects that turn good ideas into actions that benefit the JCU community and beyond.

RESEARCH SUPPORT



\$384K

National Institutes of Health Grants

Thomas Frazier, Ph.D., '97

Supports three cohorts of undergraduate students to work with Dr. Frazier on his nationally recognized, ongoing research focus on autism spectrum disorder.



\$387K



Megan Macnaughtan, Ph.D.

Supports Dr. Macnaughtan in her continued research on *Chlamydia trachomatis* protein, the most common sexually transmitted bacterial disease in the United States.



\$84K

National Science Foundation Grant

Rebecca Drenovsky, Ph.D.

Supports research experiences for 18 undergraduate students from three universities, including JCU. Funding aims to train future scientists for a global workforce, offering opportunities to collaborate with worldwide experts and develop cross-cultural, interpersonal, and academic research skills in STEM fields.



SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Ohio Department of Higher Education Scholarship Grants



\$3.1M

Six different State of Ohio scholarship grants are available for deserving and high-potential JCU students pursuing degrees in STEM, Behavioral Health, Nursing, Pre-Health, and Education. Grants range from \$150,000 to \$1,199,912 and have supported 104 JCU students to date.

National Science Foundation Grant

\$2.5M

Provides \$15,000 in yearly scholarship support to 33-36 full-time students pursuing degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Data Science, Mathematics, Physics, and/or Psychology.

PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT



\$250K

U.S. Department of Education Ohio Dean's Compact

Two grants support a partnership between Cleveland Metropolitan School District's John Marshall School of Civic Business Leadership and JCU's Education Department, aiming to recruit, support, and retain students of color pursuing degrees in K-12 education. Additional assistance breaks barriers for first-generation college students from underrepresented backgrounds.



\$872K

National Science Foundation Grant

ASCEND, a grant from the NSF-ADVANCE program, focuses on support that fosters gender equity by identifying and eliminating organizational barriers that impede the full participation and advancement of diverse faculty in academic institutions like JCU.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

NICK WELCH '23 Leading by Example

Nick, during his time at JCU, prioritized leadership skills alongside academic excellence. He took on roles such as Financial Officer for Black Students in Action, Peer Learning Facilitator for Calculus, Team Lead Official for the Department of Recreation, and Team Lead for the Tour Guide Office in Admissions. His academic achievements earned him a MIRRORS Scholarship on the way to a BS in Mathematics with a minor in Chemistry. He's currently pursuing a medical degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Nick aspires to make a positive impact in the healthcare industry and is driven by his goal to help others.



PETRA VIDOVIC '22 Advancing Scientific Research

Petra earned a BS in Cell and Molecular Biology and refined her research skills with a RISE scholarship. The program, focused on fostering lifelong service, allowed her to compare research techniques between the Cleveland Clinic and BASF in Germany. Now a Microbiology Lab Technician at University Hospitals, Petra credits her scholarship for preparing her with technical and interpersonal skills crucial for troubleshooting high-complexity testing in a laboratory setting.



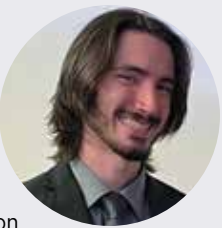
ALISON BROWN '25 Empowering Future Generations

Alison is enthusiastic about teaching elementary education and sees educators as having a crucial role in shaping students' academic and personal growth. She aims to create an engaging classroom environment that fosters students' excitement for learning. Alison has received scholarships at JCU, including the Presidential Merit Scholarship and the Mary and Dr. Joseph Warren Scholarship. These scholarships have provided valuable hands-on learning experiences in Cleveland-area elementary schools, expanding her knowledge in the field.



ROBERT (BOBBY) BOLAND '23 Changing the Lives of Others

Bobby Boland earned a BS in Math and Computer Science with a minor in Theology at John Carroll University. Currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Notre Dame, he aims to affect lives through his Jesuit-inspired faith and education. His career goal is in education as a teacher and/or campus minister. Bobby received an S-STEM MIRRORS Scholarship during his time at JCU.



GRANT IMPACT DATA POINTS

\$11.5M TOTAL GRANT SUPPORT IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

\$2.5M LARGEST S-STEM GRANT FROM NSF IN OHIO IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

230% 

INCREASE IN GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED IN PAST 5 YEARS
(versus the previous 5 year period)

105% 

INCREASE IN GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
(versus the previous 5 years)

52 GRANTS AWARDED TO JCU IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

52% ACCEPTANCE RATE FOR JCU GRANT PROPOSALS,
Versus national average of 10%

63 FACULTY AND

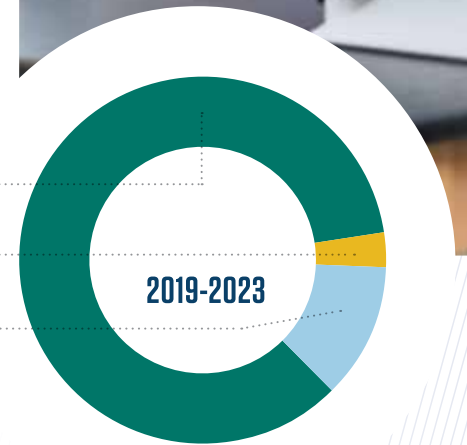
14 DEPARTMENTS ENGAGED WITH SUCCESSFUL GRANTS



GRANT AWARD DOLLARS BY SPONSOR TYPE

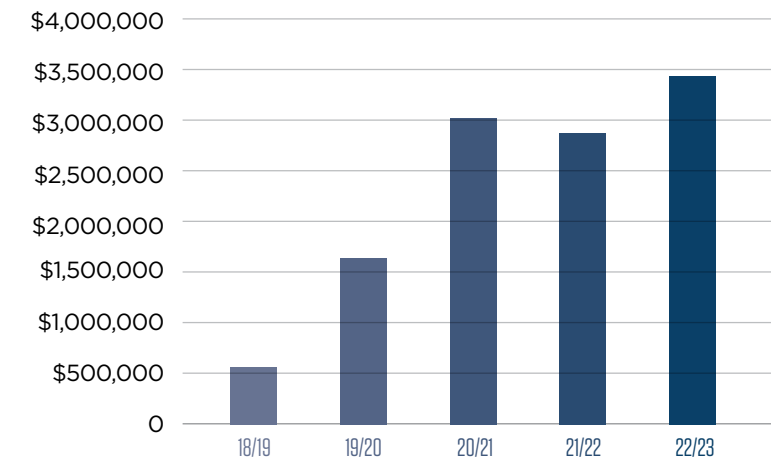
JCU's success in securing increased federal grant dollars from prestigious sources such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health reflects our national recognition for excellence in research and service projects. This enhanced funding not only elevates our national profile but also fuels transformative campus initiatives through larger grants, fostering substantial changes and activities.

FEDERAL 85%
STATE 3%
OTHER 12%



GRANT AWARD DOLLARS BY FISCAL YEAR

2018-2023

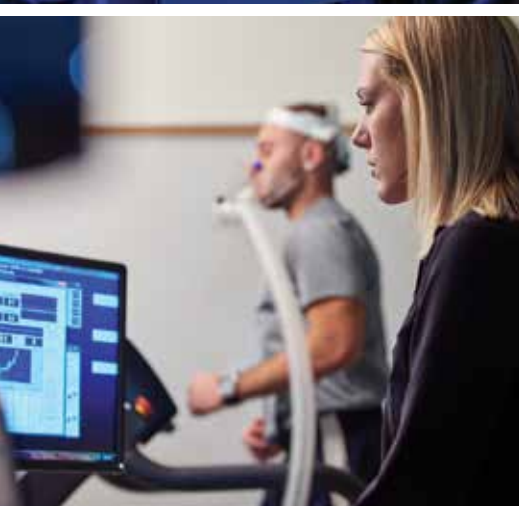


John Carroll University acknowledges the following funders and grants for work presented in this article:

- National Institutes of Health: R1MH129815, R15GM109413
- National Science Foundation: 2153089, 2322446, 2128203
- Ohio Department of Higher Education
- United States Department of Education: H027A210111, HQ23A2230111

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
rdrenovsky@jcu.edu



Taking *Cura Personalis* to Another Level

For 138 years, John Carroll University has offered Jesuit Catholic education through its College of Arts and Sciences and the Boler College of Business. Now, after thoughtful examination and rigorous innovation, the University announces the creation of its new College of Health. Over the past four years, faculty and alumni, alongside university and board leadership, have imagined and designed the next critical step in cultivating *Inspired Futures* through a College of Health.

The bedrock of this new endeavor is the Jesuit commitment to *cura personalis*, care of the whole person, and the Ignation tradition of service to others. This mission will help develop healthcare practitioners and leaders who are holistically trained in comprehensive care, aware of the intersection of mental and physical health, and—as students of a Jesuit liberal arts university—innovative, compassionate, critical thinkers.

Deliberate Creation

“Creating the nursing program was a necessary and critical first step; one that aligned with our Jesuit mission and capitalized on the national reach of the world-class healthcare providers in Northeast Ohio,” says Alan R. Miciak, Ph.D., John Carroll University President.

“It was clear that a nursing program, embedded in a College of Health, was a prime opportunity for us, both philosophically and practically,” says Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Ph.D., Vice

President for Academic Affairs. “This is a significant event: we are planting a flag that healthcare is integral to John Carroll’s future and our Jesuit mission, while also addressing a significant societal need.”

The John Carroll Board of Directors created a Healthcare Committee within the Board that brought together alumni with experience in healthcare—on both the business and clinical sides—to advise John Carroll of the best way to launch a College of Health, based on its tradition of Jesuit service with sensitivity to the needs of the current healthcare market. The Co-Chairs of the Healthcare Committee are Dr. Eric Beck, D.O., M.P.H., ’04, CEO of ESO Solutions, Inc. and Annmarie Lyons ’95, Vice President of Women’s Health Services at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

In addition to alumni expertise, the Healthcare Committee strengthened relationships with the three world-class healthcare systems in Cleveland—The Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, and University Hospitals—and numerous

“It was clear that a nursing program, embedded in a College of Health, was a prime opportunity for us, both philosophically and practically...”

Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs

community-based health organizations ranging from recovery and behavioral health providers to school systems and senior healthcare services.

Connecting with healthcare providers and employers gives the College of Health a ringside seat to understand industry trends and market demand, and to help students prepare for their role as healthcare providers of the future through clinical experiences. By working closely with a variety of healthcare institutions, the College of Health will be able to develop new academic offerings that directly respond to relevant market needs.

“Being able to offer so many medical experiences—in research and lab work, clinical and experiential learning—is the differentiator in our market,” notes Dr. Melissa Cole, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, CENP, and John Carroll’s Interim Dean of its new College of Health. “We have incredible opportunities in our backyard, thanks to really vested healthcare partners.”

Meeting Critical Need

Establishing a College of Health at this moment addresses major labor shortages faced by the healthcare industry nationwide. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects a shortage of up to 195,400 nurses by 2031; the Association of American Medical Colleges notes that demand for physicians is growing faster than supply, with a total physician shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 projected by 2034. And it isn’t just nurses and doctors who

are in short supply: the National Center of Health Workforce Analysis is predicting shortages in allied health professionals like opticians, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, addiction counselors, mental health counselors, and psychologists.

New Programs from Successful Legacies

“Building anything new is one of the most exciting things there is,” says Cole. She should know; in November of 2022, Cole helped design John Carroll’s undergraduate Nursing program as its Director of Nursing and Strategic Healthcare Initiatives. One year later, she was tapped to lead the launch of a College of Health. “There’s no exact playbook—you get to be innovative, create guidelines instead of rules to be broken, and discover how to provide change management.” Before coming to John Carroll, Dr. Cole was the Vice President for Integrated Delivery Options at University Hospitals Health System and still currently practices as a Nurse



Practitioner of Emergency Medicine.

The College of Health is anchored by the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, whose curriculum is based on recently revised quality standards and core competencies from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and which offers four certificates to graduates that show proficiency in areas requested by healthcare employers: professional development, self-care, innovation and entrepreneurship, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB).

In addition to Nursing, the College of Health brings together current undergraduate and graduate programs serving the healthcare space. Undergraduate majors in Exercise Science and Sports Leadership—for students entering the fields of fitness, wellness, exercise science, allied



“Creating the nursing program was a necessary and critical first step; one that aligned with our Jesuit mission and capitalized on the national reach of the world-class healthcare providers in Northeast Ohio...”

Alan R. Miciak, Ph.D., John Carroll University President

“The healthcare ecosystem is a place where people are navigating difficult decisions... decisions that draw upon a person’s values and faith.”

Offering practical healthcare experience, John Carroll’s Student Health Center and student-run campus EMS service are now a part of the College of Health. Looking ahead, the College of Health plans to expand its program offerings by adding an undergraduate major of Public Health in the fall of 2024, followed by an undergraduate major in Healthcare Administration (fall 2025) and Master of Science in Nursing (fall 2025).

In addition to the programs within the College of Health, collaborative programming with departments within the College of Arts and Sciences and the Boler College of Business will provide courses in healthcare administration, entrepreneurship, and psychology, among others. Integrating health-related fields together under the umbrella of a College of Health also provides a method of discernment for students who want to work in healthcare, but may not know their exact path. Students may choose from clinical, research, and business tracks, as well as the experiential learning that is a hallmark of a John Carroll’s education.

“The College of Health will continue to evolve and reflect industry trends,” notes Cole.

“Healthcare service lines do not work in silos; neither should we. The College of Health will have different specialties—like nursing, exercise science, or counseling—but will collaborate to deliver an incredible experience. The goal of the College of Health is to improve patient outcomes by producing team members able to work in an integrated model.”

The Soul of the John Carroll Difference

One way the College of Health leverages programs not typically considered inside the healthcare space is the collaboration between the College of Health and the Theology and Religious Studies Department (TRS) at JCU. TRS offers a Hospital Chaplaincy Certificate, boasts distinguished scholars across many faith traditions, and is well-suited to emphasize Catholic teachings as they pertain to medicine while also providing a comprehensive religious education involving other traditions.

“The healthcare ecosystem is a place where people are navigating difficult decisions about quality of life or even end of life; decisions that draw upon a person’s values and faith,” says Gunzenhauser. “The Theology

and Religious Studies Department provides this perspective of faith and diversity to our students, giving them a sensitivity and awareness of the faiths of the people they encounter as they deliver healthcare.”

This approach to faith diversity is an echo of the larger, Jesuit Catholic mission of the College of Health, which includes not only a sensitivity to people’s faiths, but an awareness of ethics and moral discernment, and the compassion that sees a person as a complex whole, rather than simply a medical problem.

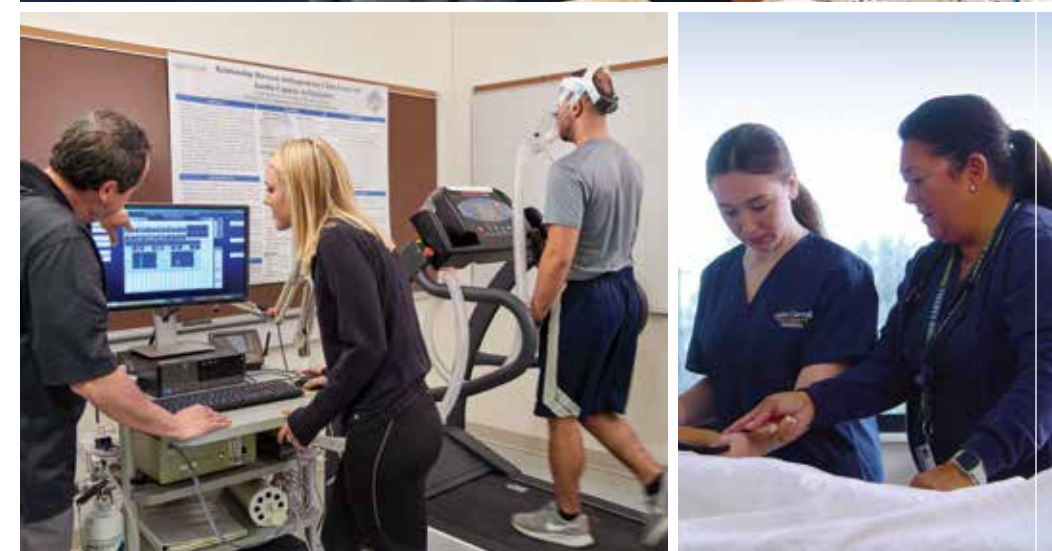
Extraordinary Investment

Establishing the College of Health also opens the way to significant grant possibilities. Over the past ten years, John Carroll has received numerous grants for its STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine; see the grants article on page 10 of this issue for details).

Last year, John Carroll received two substantial grants totaling nearly \$4.5 million to support STEM students. The Choose Ohio First (COF) grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education awarded over \$1 million to support the development of STEM talent focused on patient care in Ohio. COF funds will help 70 College of Health students for four years, providing better access and stronger success rates for underrepresented students interested in careers in healthcare. This is the second COF grant that John Carroll has received; its first successful cohort began in 2017, and had a retention rate over 90% and a near-100% four-year graduation rate.



“... first successful cohort...had a retention rate over 90% and a near-100% four-year graduation rate.”



“it’s great to see those alumni who work in healthcare share their input and feedback so generously.”

A grant from the National Science Foundation brings \$2.5 million to John Carroll’s **IN**novation for **STEM** Pre-Professionals: **I**ntity, **R**esearch, and **E**ducation (INSPIRED) program, providing scholarships for high-potential, low-income students pursuing degrees in STEM.

Both prestigious grant awards will help support a new undergraduate cohort of College of Health scholarship awardees: **S**ervant-leaders **A**spiring to be **NU**rses and **M**edical Professionals, or SANUM, which is the Latin word for “healthy thing.”

“There’s an excitement and energy on campus around the new College of Health,” notes Cole. “Departments are considering ways in which they can collaborate with our healthcare students, and it’s great to see those alumni who work in healthcare share their input and feedback so generously.”

If you are an alum working in healthcare, or want to learn more about supporting the new College of Health, please connect with us! **Contact Ryan Daly ’99, ’12G, Vice President for University Advancement at rdaly@jcu.edu.**

health, and the sports industry—will fortify Nursing as some of the key undergraduate majors. There will be strong Masters programs in Exercise Science, which will include a customizable curriculum for a range of careers in the medical and sports fields, and Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling as well. Currently, Counseling is the largest graduate program at JCU and its demand continues to rise.

“Starting the College of Health truly comes out of a long and illustrious history of John Carroll preparing healthcare leaders,” says Gunzenhauser. Currently, more than 1,500 John Carroll alumni work in healthcare fields.

“Starting the College of Health truly comes out of a long and illustrious history of John Carroll preparing healthcare leaders...”



✦ INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING



In the Department of Theology & Religious Studies (TRS) at John Carroll University, there is a small plaque near the front desk that reads *“Be curious, not judgmental.”* While Ted Lasso might have popularized the famous line, the department is living it out. Decades of investing in curious faculty—scholars dedicated to understanding the rich religious diversity of our world has made a meaningful impact. When violence and division broke out in the Middle East this fall, students, faculty, and staff benefitted from the positive culture of inquiry cultivated by JCU’s experience of interreligious engagement.

After Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, followed by Israel’s declaration of war, the world has watched the horror of violence and death unleashed from this long-standing conflict. On college campuses around the country, debate became divisive. Reasoned exchange gave way to violent protests, vandalism, and dehumanizing epithets. However, something different happened at John Carroll University in the weeks and months after October 7th: Jews and Muslims broke bread with each other, students chose dialogue and listening over violent confrontation, and the faculty and staff of TRS displayed true leadership by putting into practice across campus the principles of interreligious understanding they teach in the classroom.

John Carroll has long been committed to interreligious dialogue and in 1966 the Walter & Mary

Tuohy Chair for Interreligious Studies was created by a generous gift from the Tuohy family—the first such chair in ecumenism at a Jesuit university in the United States. By 2023, the Tuohy Endowment had grown to create the *Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding*, thanks to additional University investments in programming and the hiring of distinguished faculty with expertise in various religious traditions.

In 2003, the Bediüzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies was created, a position currently held by Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D., Edward Hahnenberg, Ph.D., who currently chairs TRS, took up the newly established Jack & Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Theology in 2011. In 2022, Noah Bickart, Ph.D., who had previously served as a Tuohy Fellow and visiting professor, became the inaugural Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies, a position that was created through generous gifts from the Mandel

Foundation, the Milton and Tamar Maltz Family Foundation, and Norma Geller ’87. Endowed chairs in the three great monotheistic religions have positioned John Carroll to provide world-class religious education in the Jesuit Catholic tradition to all of its students. It also provides leadership to engage in extremely difficult theological discussions during divisive times.

Semiha Topal, Ph.D., the new Program Manager of the Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding, likes to stress that JCU does not shy away from religious differences, but acknowledges them in an effort to build bridges and deepen understanding. “We like to fill these gaps with opportunities for dialogue and to create safe spaces for people to be themselves and feel respected,” Topal added.

Following the attacks in Israel, Hahnenberg, Bickart, and Saritoprak issued individual and joint statements on the violence. Together with Topal, they discussed what the Tuohy Center could do to support the JCU community, particularly in light of emerging antisemitism and Islamophobia that could potentially threaten JCU students, faculty, and staff. Even within this tight team, the conversations were not easy, but a path forward emerged.

Within a week of the attacks, the Tuohy Center hosted a panel discussion titled “Violence in Sacred Texts: Judaism, Christianity & Islam” that was facilitated by Topal, with Hahnenberg, Saritoprak, and Bickart discussing how each religious

tradition struggles to interpret their own scriptural texts that seem to condone violence. At an extremely difficult time, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, and others came together to learn more about one other. Saritoprak, who has been at JCU for 22 years, likes to point out that the Carroll community is defined by friendship and a collegial atmosphere. “What is so amazing about Ed and Noah as colleagues and teachers is that they are open-minded people and have immense respect for other religious traditions. Our students notice this and they have followed their lead.”

One of the most important responses to the violence in the Middle East was a student-initiated event that was already being planned in the weeks *before* October 7th. The president of JCU’s Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organization, Gia Hamed, a junior from Westlake, Ohio, wanted to organize an event that highlighted the experience

“colleagues and teachers...are open-minded people and have immense respect for other religious traditions. Our students notice this and they have followed their lead.”

“I wanted to bring the temperature down and respond differently, in a way that brought people together.”

of Palestinians. At the same time, Gia was a big believer in bringing people together who think differently.

With help from TRS faculty, Gia decided to focus the event on the personal experiences of those on both sides of the conflict, titling the panel, “My First Trip to Israel/Palestine.” Following the attacks on October 7th, Gia was scared and nervous, especially for her friends in SJP. “We suddenly were looked at on campus as the ‘face’ of Palestinians to everyone and I knew we could not mess this up. I wanted to bring the temperature down and respond differently, in a way that brought people together.”

In the polarized aftermath of the attacks, the group decided not to cancel the event, but to model the difficult task of engaging one another constructively in the midst of deep divisions. Sponsored by the Tuohy Center and JCU’s Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Program (PJHR), the panel included Jews, Christians, and Muslims, pro-Palestinian activists, and Zionists. Bickart joined Gia alongside Debby Rosenthal, Ph.D., from the English Department, David Shutkin Ph.D., from the Education Department, and Phil Metres, Ph.D., from the English Department and head of PJHR. A packed Donahue Auditorium



We like to fill these gaps with opportunities for dialogue and to create safe spaces for people to be themselves and feel respected.”

A Model for Building Bridges

took in a discussion moderated by Dr. Mindy Peden from the Political Science department, in which deeply committed individuals who disagreed with one another shared their experiences and listened to the experiences of others in a way that both illuminated and humanized the conflict.

Bickart likes to highlight one of the core mentalities that exists at JCU. “People are not nameless, faceless adversaries to each other here. We know one another.” He and Saritoprak acknowledge that they might be the first Jew or the first Muslim that a JCU student has ever engaged with. It is a responsibility they both take very seriously. “I love teaching about Islam at a Jesuit university,” Saritoprak says with glee. One of his proudest moments came a few years ago when a Catholic student taking his class on Islam told him that she now understood the concept of “free will” in her own faith because of a lecture he had given on Islam.

Hahnenberg admits that his own Catholic faith has been strengthened by engaging with Saritoprak, Topal, and Bickart, who are all close friends of his and one another. At the same time, he understands the long-term impact that the University’s emphasis on interreligious understanding will have on our students: “By engaging across religious differences, we teach our students the skills they need to engage across all kinds of difference. And if the world needs anything right now, it needs people who know how to engage across the differences that divide us. It needs John Carroll graduates who know how to build bridges that bring people together.”



The Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies

On May 31, 2023, JCU hosted a reception to celebrate the creation of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies in the Theology and Religious Studies Department. The endowed professorship was created in 2022 through generous funding from Norma Geller '87, the Milton and Tamar Maltz Foundation, and a lead gift by the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation.



- 1 President Al Miciak with Norma Geller '87.
- 2 President Al Miciak with Stephen Hoffman (Chairman of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation), and Jehuda Reinharz (President and CEO of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation).
- 3 Dr. Noah Bickart with Milton and Tamar Maltz.



MAGIS SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT LINDA MEGLIN '74

considers John Carroll not only the thread that runs through her life, but also one of the best investments she’s made.

“Some of my best friends are the folks I met at John Carroll. I’ve known them for 50 years,” Linda says. “And I see John Carroll as an investment; financial advisors tell you to buy stocks of the things you like. By investing in Carroll, the dividend you receive is that someone else will find the same community, amazing network, and friends for life that you did.”

While Linda has been a generous annual supporter to JCU over the years, she elevated her support by making a six-figure planned gift commitment to the University through her estate plan. Linda engaged JCU’s University Advancement office in this conversation and documented her generous commitment, which will support the University’s future.

Linda entered John Carroll just as the University opened its doors to women

The inspiration for my legacy commitment to JCU originated from my mother, who was a champion of education and kindness. Investing in JCU, now and in the future, honors her perpetual encouragement and provides funding to continue the Jesuit tradition.”

students. With the encouragement of her Chester, Connecticut high school chemistry teacher—a John Carroll alum—she applied as an early decision applicant, eager to attend a Jesuit school and get another perspective in a different part of the country.

During her first year at John Carroll, there

were only 150 women living on campus; two classes of 75 each. “We were warriors,” says Linda. “We represented tremendous change on JCU’s campus and not everyone was ready for it, but we were ready for it. It was fun to be a pioneer!”

That pioneering, adventurous spirit gave Linda an advantage after graduating with a degree in Communications. She worked for Teledyne Corporation, an industrial conglomerate serving the aerospace industry and the military, and succeeded—first as an advertising manager, then as director of communications, and finally as the first female president of a Teledyne Company, TRL Productions, the in-house advertising agency. After leaving Teledyne in 1995, Linda started her own marketing firm, Meglin Marketing Communications.

“I learned how to deal with the male-dominated environment from Carroll, and I was used to it. I became braver—I didn’t just sit in the corner and not say anything,” Linda notes. “But I also learned how to be tactful at Carroll, and that presentation and attitude were a large part of being successful.”

As Linda succeeded in her professional life, she remained deeply involved in John Carroll as an active alumna. She was a member and officer of the Alumni Board, volunteer and chair of various reunions, first woman president of the Alumni Association (1985-1986), Silver Quill recipient, admissions volunteer, and Media Chair of the Russert Communications Department. Linda currently serves on the Board of Directors.

“Linda is a perfect example of the John Carroll Experience,” says classmate Dave Robinson '74. “There is something a student encounters during their days at JCU that leads to a lifetime commitment to the University and classmates. Linda has nurtured her JCU

experience as a class agent, reunion committee chair, alumni association president, and member of the Board.”

Dave also points to Linda’s dedication to the impact of John Carroll in her work as the writer, director, and producer of “Tim Russert: The JCU Years,” a full-length documentary about journalist Tim Russert '72, the longest-serving moderator of NBC’s weekly political show, *Meet the Press*. Linda worked for three years on the documentary, interviewing Tim’s friends and faculty from John Carroll and his coworkers at NBC. The Russert documentary had its screening at the 2022 Reunion, with Russert’s son, Luke, in attendance.

Linda’s investment in John Carroll doesn’t ever lose its momentum. She currently serves on the Advancement Committee and Marketing and Enrollment Committee of the Board of Directors, and is working with Luke Russert and the University planning The Russert Speaker Series.

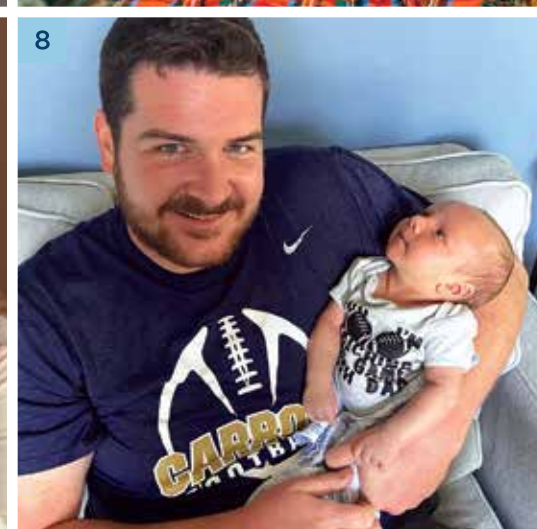
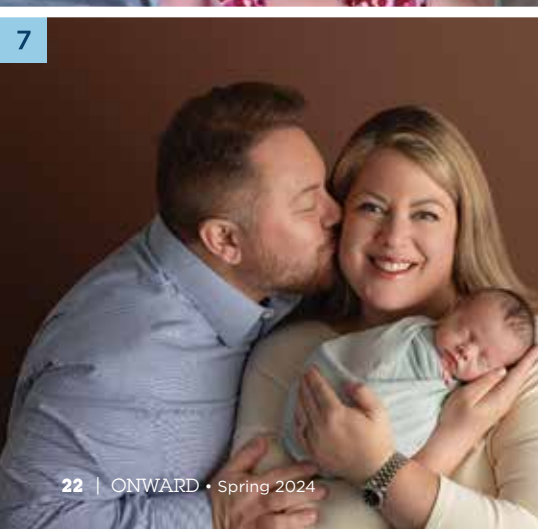
“Linda epitomizes the best of JCU Alumni—living a life of service in her career, committed to her community, and dedicated to serving the University,” says Ryan Daly '99, '12G, Vice President for University Advancement. “We are incredibly honored to showcase Linda’s commitment and amazing philanthropy to the University, and we express our deep gratitude for her generosity and commitment to our mission.”



JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
Magis Legacy Society

All alumni who make estate gift commitments to JCU become members of the Magis Legacy Society. Planned gifts of all kinds and amounts establish a lasting legacy at JCU. Interested in following Linda’s example? Please visit plannedgiving.jcu.edu or email plannedgiving@jcu.edu.

J
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U
Future **BLUE**
STREAKS



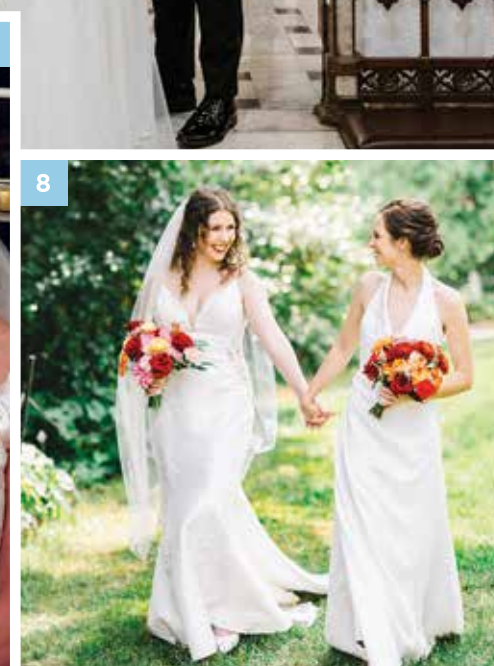
- 1 **Brendan McCreary '11** and his wife Rheana welcomed son Thomas Patrick.
- 2 **Annelise (Giovannitti) '12** and **Joe Pyne '11** welcomed Cecelia Rose on October 31, 2023, joining big brother, Owen.
- 3 **Ben Beehner '08** with daughter Lowen Anoray, and fellow classmate **Marisa Benich '08** and her new son, Felix.
- 4 Charlotte Null, daughter of **Ann Awadalla '08** and husband Alex.
- 5 **Halle (Shanker) Hall '15, '19G** and husband Chris welcomed son Barrett William in April 2023.

- 6 **Josh Gdanetz '15** and wife Rachel welcomed their first child in November 2023, daughter Reese Emersyn.
- 7 **Theresa (Spada) Yacobozzi '04** and husband Chris welcomed William at the end of August.
- 8 **Matt Hoyt '13** and wife Mary welcomed son Joseph Fulton in August.
- 9 **Katherine (Spillman) Irish '13** and husband Kyle welcomed twin sons in May: Liam (left) and Cole (right).
- 10 **Brian Bayer '13** and wife Sofia welcomed daughter Lía Sofía in December.

- 11 **Tara (Knight) Haney '13** and husband Nick welcomed daughter Maeve in August 2022, joining older brothers Seamus (4) and Declan (3).
- 12 **John Cunningham '76's** granddaughter, Shea Kathleen.
- 13 **Bethany (Glassbrenner) Beal's '06** daughter, Rachel.
- 14 **Ty and Chelsea (Gerken) McTigue's '14** daughters: big sister Colette and new daughter Fiona Therese.



WEDDINGS



- 1 Crystal Uvalla '10 wed Richard Houseman in December 2023.
- 2 **Carroll Couple:** Over 30 JCU alums gathered in September to celebrate the wedding of Ellen Kriz '14 to Adam D'Amore '14, son of Don D'Amore and Michelle (Sciangula) D'Amore '84.

Front Row (L to R): Adam D'Amore '14 and Ellen Kriz '14

Second Row (L to R): McKenzae Bartels '14, Lisa (Ugran) Pacconi '09, Mary Fischer '14, Danny Gonzalez '14, Jessica Kreuzer '14

Back Row (L to R): Lisa (Simmons) D'Amore '85, Loren D'Amore '79, Dr. Joe Sivak '84, Claudine (Ugran) D'Amore '76, Melissa (D'Amore) Joseph '06, Dr. David D'Amore '74, Debbi (Amorose) D'Amore '75, Steve Mayher '14, Andy Pacconi '09, Deirdre Byrne '14, '16G, Matt Mayher '13, Tina Garba '14, John O'Brien '14, Rob Buchanan '14, Natalie Yadon '13, Andrew Yadon '14, Kaira Gramley '14, Michelle (Sciangula) D'Amore '84, Kerry Marinchick '14, Don D'Amore '84, Ed Cooper '84, (Not Shown: Laura (D'Amore) Miklos '87, Randy D'Amore '77, Erin Kriz, '18, '22G, Dan Kriz '09, '10G)
- 3 **Carroll Couple:** Haley (Turner) '15 and Matt Serna '14 were married in November 2023.
- 4 Kaley Capron '21 married Travis Stika on November 11, 2023 in Rodman Chapel.

- 5 Michelle LoSchiavo '88 wed Paul Beardon in September.
- 6 Rinette Scarso '88 tied the knot with Mark Straffen in October.
- 7 **Carroll Couple:** Nancy Agacinski '79 and Jack Mulhall '76 joined the esteemed Carroll Couples.
- 8 **Carroll Couple:** Kasey Foley '14 and Meaghan Gade '15 wed in D.C. in June.
- 9 Jamie Shanes '14 married Brett Gilliam in October.
- 10 **Carroll Couple:** Alex Kline '14 and Taylor Tercek '16, surrounded by fellow JCU alums.

Front Row: Marty Gibbons '15, Chris Rizzo '15, Maggie Strippy, Allie Kaminski, Matt Matteucci, Sara Kaminski Cope '16, Ron Dolciato, Allie Coab, Jackie Whelan, Nicole Gerrick, Kelsey (Aernie) Harding '14

Second Row: Luke McCall '13, Sara Rizzo, Michael DiGeronimo, Kevin Cope '15, Sam Kukura, Jack Corrigan '15, Desire (Tercek) Vectirelis '14, Alex Kline '14, Taylor (Tercek) Kline '16, Nicolette Bohrer, Danielle Sharbaugh, Ellen Meyers, Erminia Sellas

Third Row: Zach Strippy '15, Tommy Zagorski, Aramis Greenwood '15, Randy Greenwood '14, Mike Hollins '16, Tricia Reddy Lucas '14, Morgan Paskert '16, Stephen Mottola '16, Michael Melfi '16, Sarah Ruckstuhl '16, Daniella Rice '16, Katie Sigler '16, Danielle Stelbasky '16, Genny Goergen '14, Ashley Abbott, Chris Harding

- 11 The wedding of Dana Kopas '14.

Left to right: Molly Wagner '14, Megan (McCall) Geyer '14, Gloria (Suma) Sinko '13, Deirdre Byrne '14, Dana Kopas '14, Natalie (Lichtman) Yadon '14, Andrew Yadon '14, and Tina (Brzoska) Garba '14
- 12 Sara Schoonmaker '14 married Matt Sokolich. Celebrating with her fellow JCU Alums (*left to right*): Charlie Hamilton '13, James Begin '16, Maurell James '16, Grace Donnelly '16, Veronica (Christoff) Postolka '15, Sara Schoonmaker '14, Deirdre Byrne '14, Mary-Kate (Begin) Knowlton '14, Brian Holler '17, Morgan (Oshenka) Holler '17, Tyler Bond '13, and Timmy Maxwell '16
- 13 Nick Santucci '13 wed Alexis Novotny in September.
- 14 **Carroll Couple:** JCU Alums celebrated the wedding of Kylie Brooks '15 and Zack Zenger '15.
- 15 Emily Herfel '12 and Brett Hehl were wed in April.



SAVE *the* DATE

REUNION 2024

JUNE 7-8

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Annual Alumni Golf Classic
Friday, June 7, 2024
(separate registration required)
- Welcome Back Festival
on Rodman Terrace
with food trucks, beverages, artists,
and live music on Friday night
- Alumni Continuing Education
(A.C.E.S.) sessions with
JCU Faculty and Senior Leaders
- Mass in St. Francis Chapel
- Dinner and Dancing in the Dolan
Center for Science & Technology
on Saturday Evening
- Annual Fireworks Grand Finale over
the Grasselli clocktower

- **FRIDAY EVENING ONLY (\$35 PER PERSON)**
Includes vouchers for one entree, one dessert, and two drinks at the Welcome Back Festival (gourmet food trucks, bars, and live music).
- **SATURDAY DAY ONLY (\$90 PER PERSON)**
Includes breakfast and lunch in the Schott Dining Hall, the President's Reception, Mass in St. Francis Chapel, and other entertainment.
- **SATURDAY EVENING ONLY (\$100 PER PERSON)**
Includes Mass in the St. Francis Chapel, plated three course meal, two drink vouchers, late night food trucks, fireworks finale, and other entertainment.
- **FRI AND SAT EVENING ONLY (\$130 PER PERSON)**
Includes Friday Evening and Saturday Evening packages.
- **ALL DAY SATURDAY (\$185 PER PERSON)**
Includes Saturday Evening package plus breakfast, lunch, President's Reception, and entertainment.
- **ALL REUNION PACKAGE (\$215 PER PERSON)**
Includes Friday Evening and All Day Saturday packages.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Thursday, April 4, 2024

ALUMNI PUB TRIVIA!

Great Lakes Brewing Co.
Market Avenue
Cleveland, OH

Thursday, April 11, 2024

ALUMNI CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES (A.C.E.S.) INTERFAITH DIALOGUE: A MODEL FOR BUILDING BRIDGES

Featuring Noah Bickart, Ph.D.
Edward Hahnenberg, Ph.D.
Semiha Topal, Ph.D., &
Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 18, 2024

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Market Garden Brewery
West 25th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

ALUMNI CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES (A.C.E.S.) JCU IN THE LOTTERY: 3 BLUE STREAKS WHO RUN STATE LOTTERIES

Featuring John Martin '78
Mark Michalko '76
Michelle (Banjoff) Gillcrist '91

Friday, June 7, 2024

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

The Historic Tanglewood Club
Chagrin Falls, OH

Friday/Saturday, June 7-8

ALUMNI REUNION



Saturday, June 22, 2024

TONY DECARLO '66 G MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Highland Park Golf Course
Highland Hills, OH

Sunday, July 28, 2024

COLUMBUS ALUMNI CHAPTER COLUMBUS CLIPPERS GAME

Huntington Park
Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, August 24, 2024

JCU NIGHT @ CLEVELAND GUARDIANS "ROCK N' BLAST"

Progressive Field
Cleveland, Ohio

October 11-12, 2024

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

For more information visit
jcu.edu/alumni

Have news to share? Contact your class columnist with your updates or email journal@jcu.edu.

Stay connected to JCU throughout the year! Visit jcu.edu/alumni and update your email, ensuring that you continue to receive notifications of JCU events near you, campus news, the *Onward* online newsletter, and other class updates.

1952 | Seeking Class Columnist

We are sad to share the news of the passing of **Dorothy 'Dot' (Callahan) Poland**, our wonderful longtime Class Columnist. Dorothy's wonderful contributions to our Alumni communications earned her the esteemed Silver Quill Award in 2008. She also served on our Reunion Committees for many years.

We also lost **Jerry Miller** in January. Jerry was our class's Beaudry Award recipient, a reflection of his commitment to his leadership and faith. Jerry also helped with Reunion planning over the years.

1953 | Seeking Class Columnist

1954 | Peter Mahoney

Peter007mahoney@gmail.com

To: Class of '54 and other interested readers

From: Class member Peter J. Mahoney
Subject: A party for those who are still breathing

On the weekend of June 7 and 8 this year, the University will celebrate our graduation of 70 years ago. And as you know, many things have changed. New and refurbished buildings abound; a better definition of our mission which you would recognize as a small liberal arts school the likes of Kenyon, Oberlin, or Denison. The University announced that we will be moving from the OAC Conference to the NCAC. The football team will now have enhanced recruiting power with this new league. If you like to play football, you can still get a quality education.

The Reunion committee is sparing no expense in accommodating the needs of 90-year-old grads. The university provides golf carts to get alumni around campus to the many offerings and

activities, and large print name tags are available. Don't be embarrassed that your wife/companion is thirty years younger than you are. The gist of all this is to remind you that your attendance at this gathering is to honor the University that served you and the friends you made a long time ago.

John (Ivan) Prcela has published the opus of his Josephology series: the fifth book he has written on St. Joseph the Just. He began pondering on St. Joseph during his Franciscan novitiate in 1941. He published the first book in his series in 2012, with three others following in 2014 and 2016. He has also had articles on St. Joseph published in Catholic magazines around the world, and runs his "Joseph the Son of David" Facebook page.

Keep the faith. Pete

1955 | Larry Faulhaber

faulhaberl@aol.com

In the Fall Onward JCU, I listed some of our classmates' examples of following the JCU theme of preparing "Women and Men For Others." This issue, the Notes will feature classmates who carried this service theme out by joining the Jesuits and/or committing their lives special service! **Leo Cachet, Pat McDunn, Dick Twohig, Ed TePas, and Deacon Charles Mathias.**

In 1954, Leo Cachet joined the Jesuits from JCU, together with Dick Twohig and Ed TePas. The next year, Pat McDunn joined. Pat has passed on. Fr. Twohig is at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Missouri. He has some cognitive problems but otherwise is very healthy. Fr. Cachet is at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in the great Detroit area. He reports that Fr. Peter Fennessy is on the Staff there. Fr. Peter was on the Campus Ministry staff at John Carroll for 27 years. He has been on the Manresa staff for the last 22 years. Fr. Cahet

was also part of the Patna Mission and ministered in Nepal from 1961 to 2001. He completed three years of classwork at JCU and entered the Jesuits. He received an honorary degree a few years ago. Fr. Cachet reports he keeps in touch with **Bob Ensign, Bud Feeley, Tony Stavole** and some other "Wise Old Owls" of the Class of 1955. Ed TePas left the Jesuits in the mid-70s, is married and lives out in northern California. Almost 90, he still plays golf at his local 9-hole, par-28 course, and is president of a 400-member Retired Teachers Association in Mendocino County. He prepares the Association quarterly newsletter.

As I mentioned last month, **Charles Mathias** was ordained as a deacon in 1995, and in retirement serves parishes mostly on the west side of Cuyahoga County and Lorain County. He also prepares a weekly homily on the Sunday Scriptures which is emailed to about 120 people each week. If you are interested in receiving it, contact deaconchuckmathias@gmail.com

Did I miss anyone? I am looking forward to hearing from you!

1956 | Albert Knute Oberst, JD

knuteoicp@webtv.net

I apologize to our Class of '56 members that after using the internet and making phone calls I could not get any of you to respond. So, again, I plead with you to contact me for our 2024 JCU Alumni Magazine. There is some interesting news about my brother Robert who attended JCU.

He had his book published: "The Financial Time Machine: Predicting Our Economic Future." The results of a good Jesuit education

My prayers are for you and yours, that you are all well.

AMDG, AI Oberst, JD

1957 | Bart Merella

bmerella@gmail.com

Reading the last issue of the alumni magazine reinforced how much "tempus fugits." You know you are up in years when your class is almost (if not) the first one in the series of class notes!! As I was perusing the various class columns, I saw names of several alumni class columnists whom I have known from various JCU activities over the years, to wit: Jack Hearn's '61; his dad was my maestro when I played clarinet for the St. Ignatius high school band and later director of us first tenors in the JCU Glee Club. Then, there is John Marcus '72, whom I would often see at DC alumni gatherings. And lastly there is the never-to-be-forgotten Tim Freeman '78, who helped make many of our class Reunions unforgettable during his tenure in the alumni office, especially our 25th. Now to the sad news, typical of this time, **Vince Panichi**, one of our veteran class Reunion attendees, has left our ranks. Finally, very sad to note the recent closing of a frequent class habitat, Corky and Lenny's, back when it was located at Cedar Center.

1958 | Seeking Class Columnist

Our class and the John Carroll community lost **John Reali** on January 2. After graduation, John served on active duty in Virginia, then served as a First Lieutenant Reserve officer in Cleveland. Following his career in the military, John returned to our Alma Mater, serving for 35 years as the Director of Physical Plant for the university. His commitment to Catholic education and our University earned him the prestigious Alumni medal—the highest award given by the JCU Alumni Association. Several of John's children continued the family's Carroll legacy.

1959 | Jerry Burke

1959column@gmail.com

It is sad to hear that we lost **Gary Furin**, a really good guy. He was a three-year starter on some very good basketball teams. Gary was inducted into the JCU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1972. In other news, **Alan Tokanoga** confirmed that his wife is from Canada. They have been married since 1976. The study club group in the Tampa area enjoyed New Year's Day together. **Joe Ruble, Paul Brust, Tom McGann, and John**

Breznai were there along with their spouses, significant others and other family members. The word is that the food was good, but the company was the best. This June we will be celebrating our 65th Reunion. Paul Brust has reserved a block of rooms at the Indigo Hotel, which is near I-275 and Chagrin Blvd. He also has arranged for dinner on Friday at the Hyde Park Steak House, which is adjacent to the hotel. There will also be live entertainment and food available on campus Friday evening. Saturday offers several talks by alumni and campus leadership, tours of campus and the updated dorms, a beer tasting and trivia. The President's Reception and Mass will be followed by dinner, dancing and fireworks. Be sure to let the school know you will be there. (You will need to register for on-campus activities). The university will provide golf carts to transport alumni around the campus. You should have received a letter from Paul with details. In case you did not, Paul can be reached at 480-266-4241. I am looking forward to seeing a big turnout. JB

1960 | Jerald Rachfal

jrachfal@msn.com

Thanks to all of you who called/emailed me with your news and it starts out in Chicagoland with my nomination for the JCU Class of 1960 Top Father: and it's **Don aka "Whitey" Kucera** and his eight children. Don, who attended Fenwick High School in Chicago, married Jane Smith, a Cleveland Heights native, shortly after graduation and reported to Ft. Benning, Georgia as a helicopter pilot. He and Jane moved back to Chicago when he was released from active duty and where Don spent the next 36 years as a bank executive and then gave lectures on public speaking for 22 years on the road until COVID forced him to retire. An annual family Christmas card featuring comments by each of his children was a wonderful way to keep in touch with Don and Jane and their family, which includes 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. And bringing up Fenwick, **Jack Duffy** also graduated from Fenwick and has spent his post-JCU life in New Orleans and has had his share of hurricanes—in one instance, he gave his house up to a family who literally got wiped out in one of the floods.

Bob O'Connor, one of the gang from Batavia, New York, spent 21 years on the West Coast as a Special Agent for

the FBI's Drug Information Group and reports that he retired back east in the Carolina Hills and here's hoping that he is still a Buffalo Bills fan.

Along the Sports line, **Mattie Mahon** spent eight and a half years in the Army which included tours in Korea and Vietnam and is now retired and living in South Florida but still enjoys his favorite passion, horse racing, as he grew up in the Shadows of Monmouth Park, one of most beautiful tracks in America. When asked how he has moved on from his local bookmaker in New Jersey, Mattie pointed out that it's all online now so there was an easy transition, but he does wonder how AI (Artificial Intelligence) will affect the ponies and betters in the future.

Another Fenwick graduate, **Gennaro aka "Jerry" Malizia** has resurrected a mini-version of the Thursday Night Study Club with a Zoom get-together once a month for the last two years. The group is not dedicated to "changing the world" but to sharing memories of JCU and our lives since them. The group includes **Jim Mason, Gerry Schweickert, Dennie McGrath, Bill "Field" Retterer, Jerry Rachfal, Paul Flask, and Jim Shannon.**

Closing with noting the passing of our fellow classmates, **Jim Thailing** and **Fred Beegle**. Please remember them in your prayers as well as the other members of the Class of '60 and take a few minutes to let me know what you would like to share with the class in the next issue of Onward.

Jerry "Falls" Rachfal
(585) 329-0517

1961 | Jack Hearn

jhearns@sbcglobal.net

Charles Nieset and his wife, Carolyn, are now living in Ft. Myers, Florida. They have been married 65 years, are the parents of two JCU graduates, and also have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They recently completed their 26th cruise on a trip from Barcelona to Florida. **John Shovary**, from Solon, Ohio, retired as a project manager at Picker International after 34 years. He is currently involved with the Solon Historical Society and is on the Board of the Friends of the Solon Library. **Chuck Fye** has been a member of the Avon Lake Kiwanis

Club, an officer with the Avon Lake Historical Society, and is involved with the National Ski Patrol at Peek'n Peak for thirty-five years. **Mike Frank** retired from Troy High School in Michigan after 44 years of teaching Latin and English. He received an MA from the University of Michigan and has served as a docent at Christ Church Cranbrook which is listed with the National Register of Historical Places. **Bob Witt**, from Northfield, Illinois, continues to be quite the traveler—during the winters he likes the sun of Ft. Myers, where he has a condo but some damage via hurricanes has caused him to travel to California for this year. Not too long ago we reported Bob had spent two weeks in Europe on a Rhine River Cruise. Judith and **Gerry O'Connell** from New Canaan, Connecticut are spending part of their winter on Sanibel Island, Florida. Gerry is looking forward to meeting up with several of our classmates who are also vacationing in the Sunshine State: **Lou Colombo** (Venice), **Dick Moroscak** (Naples), and **Ed Parks** (Sanibel). Several months ago, I sent out an edition of 1961 class notes listing over 130 classmates who have passed on. I never imagined the large response from classmates that followed, including memories of days going back to 1957 when we entered JCU. **Ray Smith** wrote that he and **Jim DeClerck** were roommates in Dolan Hall for two years and then two more years at a home on Traymore in University Heights. I would see him at our Reunions and appreciated the fact that he and his wife, Uta, would fly in from California for

the event. Over our 65 years of friendship, I enjoyed following his interesting and unusual life experiences. Ed Parks might have summarized it best when looking over the 130 names: "This is a hard list to review. Many reflections, loves and losses. A reminder of our blessings to still be around to see our families grow."

Keep us informed,
Jack

1962 | Terry Leiden
tleiden@leidenandleiden.com

As always, the trusty threesome of **Bob Finessey**, **Marty Burke**, and **John Lewis** were organizers and participants at the annual JCU Christmas lunch. **Jack Kirkhope** was also there but left before the picture time came. Rory O'Neil, JCU's new alumni director, gave an extensive update on all John Carroll activities including the new medical programs. Pictured are the three people who were there when the photographer came by.

As John Lewis commented, ten years ago they would have 15 of the class of '62 show up for the Christmas lunch; now we were down to four.

Out of the blue, I got an email from Ed Andros, class of 1969, who attended the 60th Reunion with our class in June 2022. He emailed me September 23 with his remembrances of Doc Kopfinger who he met at that meeting. He also asked me about our classmate **Ted Uritis**. I had not seen Ted for 20 years and I contacted John Lewis for help. As always, he got in touch with **Michael Sullivan**, who hunted for Ted. Michael, who lives in Columbus, Ohio, found that Ted is in a nursing home in Columbus. Ted's wife, Becky, passed away three years ago. Ted was the captain of the football team of 1961. After graduation, he served in the Marine Corps as a lieutenant for two years. After discharge from the Marines he went on to be president of a construction company in Columbus, Ohio. His health is very delicate, and when Mike last saw him he was bedridden.

Passings: **John Petrus** passed away November 15, 2023. He was also a graduate student, class of 72. In addition to being a student at John Carroll, he was also an adjunct faculty member for a number of years in the math department. I wish I had more information, but anyone with remembrances or stories, please feel free to write me.



1962
L to R, John Lewis, Bob Finessey, and Marty Burke

All the time I was going to Carroll I was inundated by the Chicago club students. I haven't heard from anyone for almost 12 months. I know you're all out there because I get a Christmas card from **John Kneafsey** every year. John is the founder of a law firm in Chicago. How about the Chicago crowd giving me a shout? Or an email? I'll be glad to get the information and spread it out in my next column.

As always, I close out with my nemesis story or in this case nemesis, as my granddaughter, age three, is afflicting me. She was visiting us and her uncle picked up a magnifying glass, pointed at her at arm's length, and said that she was upside down in the looking glass. The nemesis, true to her name, began screaming "Put it away! I don't want to be upside down!" She scared me and all my dogs as they hid under the couch. Take care and write me.

Thanks,
tleiden@leidenandleiden.com

1963 | Pete Mykytyn
mykytyn@business.siu.edu

A belated Happy New Year to all of the '63ers. I hope you survived the winter of '23-'24, what with all of the flooding, tornadoes, snow, and where appropriate lake-effect snows and cold temps. Here in Carbondale in mid-January, we had about a week with no temps above 20 degrees. Normally, our low temps during winter are higher than 20, so it was a bit much. Anyway, onto the very few notes to pass on this time.

Jim Farrar forwarded a note and photo involving a few of the '63ers from around the Cleveland area who attended a Christmas lunch. There were nine attending, and Jim indicated that although the numbers are unfortunately small, some great JCU stories were shared. Funny thing too...Jim said that some of them may have even been true.

Ed Stevens was at our Reunion dinner in June and pointed out that I had left his name out of the list of those attending. Mea culpa, Ed. As an update for Ed, he and his wife, Amy, still live in Westlake, Ohio. He retired from his business back in April '23 and from the Army Reserve in 1991. But he's not just sitting around, either. He is involved with the Cleveland Police Foundation, Medina Creative Housing and Neighborhood Centers. He is also considering becoming president of a new nonprofit serving Ohio. He also stays busy with five children and four grandchildren. Staying busy is the best thing in retirement, as people say. I also heard from **Mike Mudler**. He actually graduated in '64 but considers '63 as more of a home. He lives in Atlanta and is a couple of hours away from **John Zvolensky**. I've included a picture Mike sent to me. Not sure, but it appears to be in Alaska?

Joe Carmola found the Reunion dinner photo nice to see but wanted the names of those in the photo. After a couple of emails between me and **Jim Farrar**, I was able to obtain the names and provided them to Joe. Thanks, Joe, but send me a note or two on how you are.

If I have left anyone out who communicated with me recently, please get back with me. It is certainly not intentional. Until next time, have a great year, and please send me your updates.

1964 | Frank Kelley
fkelly@stny.rr.com

60 years ago, the history of the Class of '64's undergraduate days was written by **Hugh DeSantis** and **Matt MacFadden**. They titled it, "The Ballgame of Life," which wizened, old Doc Carpenter told us awaited beyond graduation. We have each had an adventurous individual six decades and some of that has been chronicled in these pages. Here, let's remember some random class highlights as we prepare to return to University Heights for our diamond anniversary in June.

Freshman year, it was the great snowball fight wherein the men of Pacelli drove the junior/senior members scurrying to the safety of Bernet Hall, our first implementation of ROTC lessons in firepower and maneuver. Junior year commenced two solid years of gridiron superiority with the first of two straight undefeated seasons. Senior year saw the unprecedented, before or since, campus-wide, 100% student participation, in the Mock Political Convention in which every campus organization, large and small, participated by representing the 50 states in the rough-and-tumble of determining a presidential candidate at an open party convention.

Fifth Reunion (1969): We returned to watch the Blue Streaks thrash Allegheny at our homecoming football game. The visitors departed dejected, leaving their 12-foot stuffed alligator mascot behind. It was promptly retrieved by **Jim Heavey** and **Bill Smith**. Lashing it to **Frank Kelley's** auto, the gator was driven for display in front of Red and Eddie's Bar, to the merriment of Blue Streak supporters within. The celebration almost ended in tragedy when overly enthusiastic underclass members were

overheard plotting to set the car and trophy aflame. Quick action, however, moved the mascot out of danger to a rear dumpster and there was no subsequent report of arson in the Sunday Plain Dealer.

15th Reunion (1979): Returning revelers, including ringleaders Kathy and **Bob Mirguet**, pulled a last night all-nighter which concluded with the dormitory room doorway of Jim Heavey being so heavily toilet-papered that witnesses compared it to Niagara Falls on a foggy morning.

20th Reunion (1984): **Allyn Adams** announced first year fundraising yielded \$46,000 for the newly created Class of '64 Scholarship Fund, his brainchild. Forty years later, the fund is the second largest in JCU's admissions quiver, gross value well over \$700,000, a huge asset in their mission to attract the most qualified student candidates against stiff competition.

25th Reunion (1989): featured a huge class gift effort, headed by **Tony Cullichia**, yielding a class gift well over \$300,000, one of the largest in Carroll history at that time. The laugh of the weekend came when **Al Rutledge** returned a library book after 25 years to President Michael Lavelle, S.J. Father Mike guffawed loudly and referred Al to Cullichia for an exorbitant fine. That same night Smith approached me for a contribution to the class gift. I walked him to my car, counted out the suggested amount and thought no more of the matter. Ten days later, I received a nice reminder of the Reunion: a personal thank you letter from Father Mike stating "**Bill Smith** assures me your donation came not only from the bottom of your heart but the bottom of your trunk." I



1961
Enjoying the Florida weather on Sanibel island: Judy and Gerry O'Connell '61 and Belinda and Jim Mason '60



1963
Class of '63 Christmas lunch: L to R, Tom LaFond, Rory O'Neil '06, Ed Stevens, Jim Farrar, Jim Kline, Joe Vitale, Fred Misischia, Father Bernie McAniff, S.J., Bob Cermak, Don Lennon



1963
Mike Mudler and his wife, Carine



1963



laughed aloud as it brought back the warm glow of great weekend memories.

40th Reunion (2004): Ginny and **Russ Centanni**, celebrating Russ' retirement, trailed about a hundred bottles of Idaho wine cross country to Mary and **Tom Leahy's** Thursday night kick-off party. I estimate they broke about a dozen state laws and a passel of interstate commerce regs. Late that night, after being softened up with several of those Idaho offerings, I agreed to become class scribe, which has been my honor now for twenty years.

One year after our 45th Reunion: In 2010, our five 1964 Hall of Fame football players, **Gus McPhie, Dick Koenig, Gordy Premier, Ron Timpanaro, and John Kovach**, returned to the annual Hall of Fame dinner. They proudly announced the **John W. Ray \$100,000** Sustaining Scholarship that they helped create with the same tenacious leadership skills exhibited on the gridiron.

50th Reunion (2014): We proudly celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of the Class of '64 Fountain

in front of Pacelli Hall. The fountain, a project inspired by **Allyn Adams**, was constructed that summer and officially dedicated that autumn. Ten of us returned to campus to join Allyn's widow, Susan, in the official dedication by University president Father Robert Niehoff, S.J. The fountain instantly became a campus focal point, a favorite gathering spot that has witnessed important events ranging from marriage proposals to the introduction of goldfish at its reopening in the Spring.

55th Reunion (2019): Fifty celebrants gathered back to University Heights. Visual count determined we had the single largest contingent other than 1969, who were celebrating their 50th. On Saturday we rededicated the Fountain in a joyous, sun-drenched afternoon ceremony. That evening we recognized and honored the very significant campus improvement of the student medical center in the lower level of Dolan Hall, funded by a most generous \$2 million grant from Doctors Kim and **Bill Cook**. Hopefully these random musings have triggered some fond remembrances of your own.

We'll close with a few lines from the "50th Reunion Anthem" poem from our 2014 Reunion brochure: "Gathering once again to celebrate and renew//Best friendships begun when beer was 3.2// We'll celebrate 60 years with joy, food and drink//Review fond memories gone by in a blink//And excuse tall tales with a nod and a wink." See you this summer.

God bless all Streaks.
Frank

1965 | Seeking Class Columnist

1966 | Tom Gibbons
tgibbons@prosum.cc

Post-JCU, **Jim Cogan** joined the Ohio National Guard 107th Cavalry (consider how important the cavalry has been to our nation's defense since the 60s) where he finished as a Master Sergeant. He has been president and CEO of Cleveland's United Agencies Group insurance for a quarter century as well as serving on the boards of Cleveland's Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services. He has also been a member of the St. Ignatius High School Board of Regents. Jim was also VP of Cleveland's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument for 15 years in honor of his great grandfather, William J. Gleason, who was the founding spirit of the edifice. He also still plays a lot of tennis.

We hear from Lewis, Delaware's **Jim Walpole** that he's been quite busy in retirement—bottom fishing (he was a lawyer), singing, and skeet shooting. Jim also reconnected with his high school buddy, banjo player and winner of the Nashville Old Time String Band Association's Heritage Award, Walt Koken, leader of the Orpheus Supertones. Jim and Walt made some powerful music together. He also reports that he is "...missing some anatomy pieces and added some new ones..." without specifics. We hope they weren't essential, Jim.

Attorney **Gerry Martin** writes from Baltimore with his annual promise to retire from the practice of law. "I have finally come to understand that being a lawyer is all I can do. I can't invent anything, I can't fix anything; I am technology adverse; I can't write poetry—hell, I can't understand most poetry unless it is a limerick." All attorneys (and clients) wish Gerry the best.

Loyal ever, brave and true.

Bob Monnaville of Georgetown TX writes:

Gabe Varkonyi, Bill Buckley, and I were proud to be named honorary pallbearers for the funeral of our dear friend and classmate, **Charles "Chuck" Bartels**, who typified the Jesuit-trained "Man for Others." Chuck, from Mundelein Illinois, was a successful coach, teacher, businessman, politician, father, husband, and friend. Bob reported that Chuck's five sons gave stunning eulogies filled with tributes to Chuck's character, his



superlative business life, family life, civic life, and church life peppered with plenty of amusing stories poking fun at their dad. Chuck had previously selected the hymns that were to be sung and spoke from the grave through his son who announced his father had ordered all to "...sing their hearts out." Chuck was a man of love, honor, and probity who is dearly missed. Our sympathies to Teresa and the family.

1967 | Seeking Class Columnist

1968 | Jeff Hawk
jjhawk68@comcast.net

Dearest Friends,

This is a long column. John Carroll University is OUR HOME, and WE are John Carroll University's Home. This is my 51st year writing, typing, and computing the Class of 1968's column. I started in 1972. 1972 was a banner year; Rev. Fr. Birkenhauer, S.J., President of John Carroll University, asked my Princess Jenny and I to start an Indianapolis Alumni Chapter. Father came for the weekend, JCU paid for a wonderful meal, expenses, and handouts for new chapter members. We had 80 new members. It was SUPER!!!! It ran from June 1972 to June 1982. Jenny and I want you to know how much we love you all, pray every day for you, and greatly miss all of you. We have the deepest love, prayers, sympathies for all our deceased. We sincerely hope the families have moved on. It is ALWAYS SO DIFFICULT and Very Sad and Emotional, BUT OUR GOD is ALWAYS with us. We have recently lost many friends and relatives in death. I want to SAY A BIG THANK YOU to my dear friend **Elizabeth Kelley**, speech student of our dear deceased Dr. Vincent Klein, Chairman of the Speech Department 1964 and his co-professor Dr. Joe Miller 1964. Elizabeth wrote to me on one of my columns about Dr. Klein. My Princess Jenny and I want to tell you how much we love you all

and are so grateful for all of you. On September 16, 2023 I found my beloved Princess Jenny unconscious on the kitchen floor, I had 911 paramedics on one hand and doing heart massage and chest compressions with the other. Paramedics were great, told me I saved my wife's life, and then raced her full emergency to the hospital. I followed; Jenny was in the Emergency Room all night and admitted to hospital. End of the week there was a room full of nurses, doctors, cardiologists and they told me that Jenny would be in the hospital September 16th to November 3, then she went into eight hours of broken chest open heart surgery. She was hospitalized for 30 days, and readmitted to hospital two times more. Rehab was terrible. They sent her home, fortunately we got home nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, doctors, and aides. She is now in cardiac rehab and doing great. During this time they diagnosed me with acute prostate cancer. I underwent 39 radiation treatments, graduated, rang the survivor's bell and had a graduation ceremony. We were recently back at JCU and Cleveland for my lifelong friend and JCU roommate **Marty Susi** and his lovely wife, Lynn's 40th wedding anniversary. Longtime JCU friend and Pershing Rifles and Scabbard and Blades with his own company not far from JCU. Elizabeth Kelly, I had a conversation with the Christi Alumni Department about an Alumni Society for Dr. Vincent S. Klein (deceased) Chairman of Speech, what do you think, Elizabeth?

For You and John Carroll University,
Jeff '68

1969 | Edward Christy
driheet07@cox.net

1970 | Tom Boyhan
tboyhan48@gmail.com

Unfortunately, I begin this report on the class of 1970 with sad news. My first roommate when I started at John Carroll in 1966, **Pat Murphy**, passed away on September 29, 2023. He passed peacefully in his easy chair watching television. Pat and I became good friends as well as roommates. Pat's career was a series of ups and downs. He knew the joys and agony of owning your own business. Pat was a good

husband, a good father, and a good friend. He will be missed.

On a happier note, my second roommate, **Steve Brunner**, contacted me. He worked in jewelry for several years after graduation before settling on a teaching career. Steve loved his teaching career and ended by being a principal of a small school. I'll be able to fill in more details when he passes them on to me.

I received a note from **Gerry Laures**, and he passed along his most recent accomplishment. He just won the 2023 Toastmaster International Speech Contest. The Toastmasters have approximately 280,000 members with 14,700 clubs. He had to defeat four other contestants in his division before he could face the final five contestants to come out on top. Congratulations, Gerry. Gerry had an extremely successful career and remained married to his wife, Ann Marie, for 47 years. They had a son and daughter along with five grandchildren. And their daughter delivered fraternal twins.

I also heard from **Dave Komar** who graduated from JCU with a degree in Physics. Dave served 30 years in the Air Force, retiring as a Colonel. During his time in the military, he and his family had 19 assignments, which took them to such places as Australia, Japan, and Guam, to name a few. His last two assignments were at the Pentagon serving at Headquarters USAF and the Joint Staff. When he retired from the military, he started a second career working for a defense contractor, designing air and missile defense systems. In 2013, Dave retired for good to spend time with his wife, four children, and five grandchildren. They settled in Culpeper, Virginia where he runs an astronomy program with the Culpeper County Library.

Before I leave you, I'd like to share a little humor. Remember all those days we were supposed to "bring our daughters to work" days? Well, it seems that one dad took his cute five-year-old little girl, with curly blonde hair and blue eyes to work with him. Everyone came out of their offices and cubicles to make a big deal about her. After a bit, she started to get upset. Her father knelt down and asked her what was wrong. She looked around and then cried, "Where are all the clowns you work with?"



Len Calabrese, M.D. and
Jim Girardy, M.D.

1971

I apologize that I had to cut some of the information in this column. Still, I'd love to hear from you even if it's just a sentence of two. Have a great 2024!

1971 | Rosemary Costello

rcostello1949@gmail.com

Jim Girardy just recently attended a medical alumni dinner and tour of JCU's new science building. Jim hasn't been back to JCU for a long time. In fact his email was titled "long overdue." He was quite impressed with what JCU has to offer to pre-med students. He especially enjoyed visiting with **Dr. Len Calabrese** and Dr. AJ Cianfocco '72, both well-known physicians at Cleveland Clinic. Jim is a clinical associate professor of surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford. It was great to hear from Jim!

1972 | John Marcus

jmmarcus72@gmail.com

Breaking news from Reuters International! A Peerage Review Board in London met recently to discuss stripping our own Sir **Francis Palamara** of his title—upon learning that Frankie (as he is known stateside) has moved to Alpharetta, Georgia after 39 years in the UK. Frank will be joining his daughter and three grandkids, and is not bitter about getting, what some call, "the Prince Harry Treatment." ... Maybe the only name to appear as many times in this column as Sir Francis has been given Cleveland's highest honor: The Cleveland Heritage Medal. As one reporter wrote, "No wonder we call Jose "El Jefe!" ... I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming **Luke Russert** to Columbia Country Club for a book signing for his new book, "Look for Me There." It's a great read, and young Luke is a chip off the block, as the Buffalo Irish may say! ... Federal Judge **Anne Conway** is on the move again. She went hiking in the Dolomites, took a bike trip in Ireland, and traveled to Northern Ireland where she was schooled on "The Troubles" (the religious conflict, not bad Irish cooking.) New replacement parts—a new knee won't slow her down—she's looking to travel again this summer...

Dan Sadvary wrote to tell me he serves on two boards of directors in South Carolina. But he also serves as president of the 500-member Cellar Dwellers Wine Club. He got me on "Cellar Dwellers", a tag that once described, as **Frank Gerbig** reminded me, the lowly—but risen—Detroit Lions...

Tom Eisele recounted how he and Libby ordered an Uber after having dinner in a Phoenix restaurant recently and was picked up by a driverless Jaguar. Tom wrote, "It would have been nice to have a driverless car back in the days when the Alibi room had 25 cent drinks." ... Last column we wrote about **Don** and **Patty Farrell's** Most Excellent Around the World Adventure. This time he lamented on Spirit Airlines, which they use to shuttle between Chicago and Naples (Florida ... not Italy!) Donny says they charge extra for everything—and expects that soon they will charge for—his words now—"using the biffy." Gotta think that's "Farrell-speak" for what Frankie P. would call a "loo" or a "WC?"...

Eileen Burger White writes from South Carolina where she ran into **Ward Palotta**. They both serve on the board of a 3,600 home HOA... After officiating HS football for 50 years **Tom Perchan** has hung up his cleats and rewarded himself with a trip to France. "I got to walk onshore at Utah Beach where my Dad landed 79 years ago," He wrote. "After visiting the American Cemetery, a guide took us to the actual battle site where my Dad's friend was killed, and my father was wounded." That's what you call a "bucket list trip."...

Finally, **Tim** "I never met a joke I didn't like" **Franzinger** wrote to tell me that there was a JCU Reunion of sorts in Toledo when St. Ignatius played Toledo Central Catholic in football. Tim's son, Ryan, is head coach for the nationally respected Ignatius program, and follows in the footsteps of the now retired Chico Kyle '73. Ryan put his dad, **Tom Narducci** and Bobby Madden '74 on his staff as

assistant coaches. Ray Zammit '73, Bill Wersel '73, Rich Cisek all met up, and the Ciseks went onto Cleveland where he and Zing met up with **John Ropar**...

That's it for this time - stay well, exercise body and brain, and start making plans for our 75th ! JM

1973 | Bob Larocca

rockyhoopple@yahoo.com

As I patiently wait by my email box for all those class updates from you, I wanted to welcome another classmate into the wonderful world of retirement, namely our own Reunion committee member, **Kevin Berman**. He is leaving the Cuyahoga County Office of the Public Defender after 20 years of distinguished service. He has also been an adjunct professor of Law in the Department of Historic Preservation at Ursuline College Graduate School for over 16 years. He can now attend all those missed rendezvous with friends and enjoy what we have been doing since our retirement. He informs me that he also has a new granddaughter to dote on in his leisure.

This issue's spotlight is on **John Volpi**, a day hop, who was unable to return to Carroll for our 50th Reunion last summer (*pictured below*). In 1966, he enlisted in the Air Force and was on active duty in Vietnam and other places in East Asia. Upon his discharge in 1970, he enrolled at JCU and earned his BS in BA degree in finance. Later he moved to Columbus, and became a National Bank Examiner in Ohio and surrounding states. He earned his MBA via weekend classes through the University of Dayton. Years later, he became an Independent Registered Representative and Investment Advisor while working at MONY. He then formed a partnership with another Vietnam vet specializing in retirement planning called Aegis and continued for 35 years. He finally retired, to care for his wife who was stricken with cancer and who died in 2002. John

resides in Columbus, plays golf, enjoys his four children and three grandchildren. John works with charities and has expressed his love for JCU by establishing the John and Mary Volpi (his parents) Memorial Scholarship.

Those of our class unable to attend the memorable 50th Reunion last summer may want to visit Carroll this summer for the Class of 1974's golden Reunion, as our class shared many experiences with them and other nearby classes. The campus is changing rapidly, especially if it's been awhile since you've viewed the upgrades (tennis courts, library, and field house, to name a few). I have included a picture or two of many alums from the Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity Reunions. Please feel free to submit any photos, new or old, to relive the memories. I recently received a call from **Tom Tardio** who lives with his wife, Cathy, in Studio City, California and lives close to his children also in California.

Be safe, stay in touch, and above all....

Rock On!
Bob Larocca

1974 | Dave Robinson

drobby1818@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you at our 50th Class Reunion this June 7-9. Several of our classmates have been collaborating with the Alumni Office and fellow committee members to make it an eventful "Weekend to Remember" including **Rosemary Amato, Linda Meglin, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Larry Meathe, Frank Palermo, Roger Hull, Dan Sansone, Pat Brennan, Ed Staunton, Jim Weitzel, and Frank Sossi**.

Please email any photos you have from your days on campus (so we can include them in a retrospective class video) to Linda Meglin at lindameglin@gmail.com **by April 30**.

If you have not already, make your reservation on the jcu.edu/Reunion (the link should be available in mid-March). As one of our classmates noted in a recent email to me, "Scary that it has been 50. Guess that means we are closer to the end than the beginning." Since we are rounding the final turn, please join in the Reunion Weekend festivities. As a preview to the Reunion Weekend, here are a few classmate campus memories.

Barb (Danielson) Ciofani recalls as one of the few women in The Business School, she was encouraged to work hard and was so grateful to learn from the best instructors. She also enjoyed Dr. La Guardia's English courses. She credits him with helping her confidently express her thoughts onto paper. Barb is also grateful for the foundation JCU gave her for the love of her faith and respect she embraces for life and others.

One of **Joe (Jay) Tasse's** favorite memories was the camaraderie with all the characters living in the dorms. Additional recollections include Fr. Birkenhauer in *loco parentis* policies, the scholastic excellence that was available for those interested, and the protected bubble in which we thrived for four years, as we advanced to the next level in our personal formation. Some of Joe's favorite instructors were Dayton Haskin, S.J. (Freshman English), Mike Lavelle, S.J. (Micro and Macro Economics), Joe McKeon (Intro and Intermediate Accounting), Jerome Clifford, S.J. (Finance), Eugene LaVerdiere, S.S.S. (Old Testament Studies), and Frank Navratil (Former Dean of the Boler School of Business). Wrapping up his senior year, Joe enjoyed being a RA in Dolan Hall and playing on the JCU golf team.

Terry Dwyer wrote "It's difficult to take four of the most formative years in our lives and boil them down to one or two specific memories, though over the years my bride of 39 years has suffered through many sessions of me doing exactly that with my many friends from JCU." He recalls entering JCU three months after the shooting of four students at Kent State University by members of the Ohio National Guard. A controversial time for our nation. However, he found JCU to be a welcoming environment and decided to "dive in" and go wherever the experience took him. "It was a great four years," he continued. He learned more about people, life, and himself than he ever imagined. He credits fellow classmates and the great professors for what he took away from JCU. He made friends and built relationships that today are the most important in his life. Terry summed up his thoughts with, "I think John Carroll was most impactful helping me to learn

how to think and to grow as life required me to grow."

John Englander's favorite memory was, to his surprise, his initiation into Beta Gamma Sigma by Dr. Clifford. Years later, while John was working at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Clifford was a patient, nearing the end of his life. John reintroduced himself to him in the cafeteria. He did not recall John but wanted to chat. He was kind, interested, and curious. After their conversation, John wished he had seen this side of Dr. Clifford during his student days at Carroll. John credited history professor Dr. Howard as the best professor he ever had. Lecturing from Braille, she brought history to life and converted John into a lifelong history buff. She is the one professor in John's life who he thinks about often.

Patty (Ferrone) DiBello wrote that Dr. John Carrabine in the Chemistry Department was her most influential professor. He described all the possibilities of a career in chemistry. His influence led her to a successful 40-year career doing research before retiring from the Cleveland Clinic. For the last nine years, Patty has been teaching biochemistry at Cleveland State. She is looking forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion and playing the role of first-time grandmother, displaying pictures of her beautiful grandson, Marcus Rosario DiBello, who was born last November.

Jim Glenmore recalls The Quad as the heartbeat of JCU during his time on campus. He enjoyed going to the high-caliber concerts featured at JCU. He stays in touch with the University, enjoying Blue Streak football and basketball games through the Blue-Gold sports videos.

For Professor **Dave Hancock**, his favorite memory is receiving his two Master's Degrees in 1974.

In Sports Corner: Former JCU golfers **Jim Cannan** and **Michael Stephen Bergerson** both shot their age this past summer while **Ron Deneweth** humbly struggles to match the number of years that JCU has been playing basketball (100). Hopefully, each of them will display their golf skills Friday of Reunion Weekend at Sleepy Hollow CC.

In the Business Section: Michigan Lawyers Weekly has selected **Van Conway** and Partners for the following five awards for five consecutive years: Business Accounting and Business Partner, Crisis Management, Forensic Accounting Provider, Forensic Expertise, and Litigation Consulting Services.



In the Family Section: Barbara (Danielson) Ciofani, has enjoyed 47 years with her wonderful husband, Peter, loves her grandson and traveling. **Van Conway** welcomed three new grandkids in 2023, and Sheila and **Jim Weitzel** are to become first-time grandparents in March.

In Memoria: Our thoughts and prayers to **Sheila Grobelny**, for the loss of her husband Ron Grobelny who passed away last July after a courageous battle with cancer; and for **Donald Vondriska Jr.** who passed away December 27, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Christine Vondriska.

Dave "Robby" Robinson

1975 | Mary Kay Malone
mkm1159@yahoo.com

Happy New Year to the Class of 1975. **Bishop Neal Buckon** celebrated turning 70 by coming back to Cleveland over Labor Day weekend. Bishop Buckon entertained family and friends with a boat ride on the Lady Caroline (that unfortunately never left the dock) but it was still fun. Saturday was a dinner at Sandridge Country Club (see attached photo for JCU alumni in attendance). Sunday took us to the Cleveland Air Show. Being a Bishop for the Military gets you really good seats. Those jets were right overhead. The weekend was capped off with a beautiful Mass at Borromeo Seminary and luncheon.

Bishop Buckon sent the following...I celebrated my 40th Anniversary with the U.S. Armed Forces. I continue to work with priests and deacons who perform specific ministry to Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Guardians in 16 States. I confer the sacrament of Confirmation on our Service members and their children as a circuit-driving Bishop from September to June. One of my biggest blessings is the many friendships with my JCU Alumni.

George Coleman wrote...This year is all about the sun for my wife Louise Quigley and me. The solar cycle is nearing its max now, so we are heading to Iceland in hopes of seeing some amazing Northern Lights. Then the big date is April 8th when Cleveland will be under the centerline of a Total Solar Eclipse. Keep this date open, get outside, and hope for clear skies. Total Eclipses are



Class of '75: L to R, Colleen (O'Malley) Hogan '84, John Castrataro finished '75, Bob Carroll finished '75, Mary Kay (Hutchinson) Malone '75, Mike Vary '75, Bishop Buckon '75, Ben Carozzo '75 and Tom Lyon '75, Leo Buckon '78

spectacular!! Hey, George, I will be at the Cleveland baseball opener on April 8th. Should be interesting.

John Nocero sent in news... Congratulations to my sister Laurie Nocero who has recently been hired as the new JCU Facilities Coordinator. Now JCU alumnus and employee will be rooting on our Blue Streaks together.

Check out the JCU Alumni page at JCU.edu. There are some great programs and activities to join, both online and in person.

Start planning...our 50th Reunion will be next fall. It's great to be together with our fellow JCU classmates. If you'd like to be on the Reunion Committee, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@jcu.edu or call 216-397-4336 or contact me at my email.

Please send me any news you have...

Slainte, "Hutch"
Mary Kay (Hutchinson) Malone

1976 | Joe Barmann
joebarmann@gmail.com

Greetings, fellow classmates! Here's a funny story for you. Our JCU class year of '76 led directly to me getting to meet someone whose name is famous. We were waiting at the Nashville, Tennessee airport and a guy admired my Cleveland Browns jersey with #76. He showed me a picture of a Browns player getting kissed by his sons. The player in the picture was Browns legend and NFL Hall of Famer Lou Groza (#76), and the guy's name was Lou (Jeffrey) Groza. The photo was taken immediately after the Browns won the 1964 NFL championship game. Okay '76!

Eric Lewandowski and his wife Gina ('75) celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with a three-week stay in Rome. They were fortunate to be able to enjoy Christmas, New Year's, and the Three Kings Day holidays and were blessed by many unforgettably moving experiences.

John Cunningham is now a first-time grandpa, and he joyfully shared Shea Kathleen's picture! Glad you've joined the club, John. **Mark Wester** and his wife Lynn are enjoying the grandkids (6 ½-year-old grandson and 3 ½-year-old granddaughter) and doing more things together locally. He is still on the nonprofit board of the Lupus Foundation of America - Greater Ohio Chapter.

Mo Caine told me she has had a wonderful, yet rather "ordinary" life. She lives in Valley City, Ohio with her husband Dan, and they have four children including daughter Megan, also a JCU grad. They share five grandchildren. (**John Cunningham**—you need to cover a lot of ground fast). Mo has taught special



Joe Barmann '76 and NFL HOF'er Lou (Jeffrey) Groza

education and then she went into sales. Now she is the manager of the family's home and the eight-acre yard. She has found time for golfing and loves fly fishing around the world. I'm thinking: *this is ordinary?*

Jack Mulhull and Nancy Agacinski ('79) married in 2023 with many JCU alumni in attendance, and all eight of Jack's grandchildren in the wedding party. **Tom Lawrence** and **Bob Tullio** both connected me to **Dave Tkacik**, and they all said hello.

Congratulations to **Bill Russo** who recently was recognized in Cleveland's Plain Dealer for serving on Solon, Ohio city council for 16 years. The article listed many of his accomplishments, which included turfing the athletic field that was funded with generous contributions from Bill and his wife Mary. Bill credited his love of baseball at JCU as the impetus for donating for the city's new artificial turf. Later this year, Bill will serve as sports chair for baseball when Cleveland hosts the Pan-American Masters Games in July. The event will feature athletes from more than 50 countries competing in 26 sports.

Tim Wallenhorst and his wife Mary Lou returned from a trip to Wilmington, North Carolina. They saw some historic sights and spent time on the great beaches. Tim just celebrated six years with Foundation Software after retiring from a 37-year career with the Plain Dealer.

Thank you for staying in touch with your stories and pictures!

1977 | Carol Dougherty
caroldoc1977@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who sent in news; as you'll see, there was quite a lot!

Anne Carmody retired after 45 years as a faculty member at Magnificat High School in Cleveland and they published a tribute to her in their magazine. Anne taught English as well as producing and directing many of the school's theater productions. If that wasn't enough, she established the school's track and field program, and worked with the Ski and Video Clubs.

Tim Leddy: St. John's Jesuit's Class of '73 Reunion included **Tom Schoen, me (Tim Leddy), Bob Anderson, John Newton,**

and **Len Barbe**. We had a special guest, **Kathy Baldoni**, as well, since her high school closed a number of years ago. There was a sixth member of the class of '73 who attended JCU, **Rick Robertson**. Unfortunately, he passed away.

Kathy Baldoni: Tim did not mention that I invited myself and he agreed to have me as his guest! We made plans at the JCU 45th last year.

Bill Gagliano: I was elected to the John Carroll Board of Directors last year, joining **Nancy (Cunningham) Benacci** and **Tony Mazzella** of our class on the board. Also, I have served since February 2023 as the board president of SPACES, an arts nonprofit which was selected by the State Department to be the Commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion at the 2023 Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy.

Mary Anne Garvey: Both **Linda Hall Gillen** and **Sue McCue Harris** have sons who will be getting married in 2024. Fran ('75) and Linda's son, Matthew, will tie the knot with his fiancée Sarah in May. Mac Harris will wed his betrothed, Emily, in August near Philadelphia.

Sauna (Lynch) Hughes: All good in my world, splitting time between Las Vegas and San Diego. Planning a mini Reunion with **Bob Hennessey** and **Mary Ann "Greta" Garbo!**

Bob Anderson: I am still loving my leadership work and am in arguably the most generative/creative period of my life. Loving our grandson and am looking forward to having the honor of being the celebrant in our daughter's wedding this April in Costa Rica.

Nancy Reid Kunff: Our oldest grandson Andrew is a sophomore at JCU studying accounting and plays in the pep band for football and basketball games. We have 11 grandchildren, eight boys and three girls.

Mike Perry: We traveled to Italy last May with our great friends Bruce Swartz ('78) and his wife, Paula. We spent a couple of weeks there and traveled with a group of 40 to many cities throughout the country. Had a great time and saw some incredible sites.

Mark McMullen: I retired from my full-time position as SVP-Membership and Marketing for the Knights of Columbus at the end of August last year. I am



Class of '77 classmates met up at St. John Jesuit's Class of '73 Reunion. L to R, Tom Schoen, Tim Leddy, Bob Anderson, Kathy Baldoni, John Newton, Len Barbe



Mike Perry '77 and wife Lucille and Bruce Swartz '78 and wife Paula



Sauna (Lynch) Hughes '77 and her daughter

working for K of C as a consultant currently conducting leadership training with the volunteer leaders. I am also working part-time as a Partner with AAR Partners.

Timothy Garrity: We began 2024 with a holiday gathering with my wife Mary Beth's (Rickabaugh) family. This old farm, where Mary Beth grew up, has been in the family for over a hundred years. Mary Beth's mother, Corinne, continues to battle cancer and her father, Earl, is still jovial and friendly, getting around the home with help. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Take care in the New Year and stay safe!

1978 | Tim Freeman
timfreeman78@gmail.com

Greetings...here's the latest. **Ara Bagdasarian** continues to lead Solon Community Living, an organization supporting individuals with intellectual or learning disabilities. Construction of a campus of homes for those with disabilities is well on its way. Congrats to Leslie and Ara for their lifelong efforts for achieving their dream community!... **Paul Giba** is building a home in Lake Milton, near Youngstown and is connecting with John Carroll alumni in the Lake Milton Community...Some classmate transitions: **Tim Casey** and **Brian Farrell** retired in December. Two of **Dan Weitzel's** sons were married this past year. Bev and **Larry Wyrobek** moved to Florida and enjoyed lunch with (close enough neighbors) Karla and **Jim Gentile**. **Jack Blackburn's** post career activities include chasing/caring for four young grandchildren...These IXY's and (250+ more brothers) plan to attend JCU Homecoming October 11-13...We lost classmates in the past six months. Losing these great people has a profound effect on all who knew them on campus and also over these 45+ years. The '78 column 500-word limit and my Dr. Dougald MacEachen-taught writing skills can't pay proper tribute to any of them—sorry...We remember **Paul Gellott**, husband to **Rosie (Provenzale)**, father of four and grandfather of ten. Those of us who knew Paul (at John Carroll) and his passion for the film industry are not surprised that the film business became Paul's lifelong career...**Bob Rees'** illness in Louisiana kept him from attending our June Reunion. Bob's friend network went far beyond his Pittsburgh roots, football, rugby and IXY communities. Always, always with self-deprecating laughs and more laughs. A forever memory is Bob walking into Dr. More's law test in the larger tiered classrooms in the Ad Building with extra large binoculars around his neck. Check the '78 Facebook page to learn when the 2024 date is set for Bob's Pittsburgh services...**Rob Herald** was our '78 Class President, a classy, caring, honest person—excellent golfer, too. After a 30+ year career overseas, Rob made it to our June Reunion with spouse Rosie. Many of us knew of Rob's declining health but were thrilled to see him on the quad once again. A great '78 turnout to Rob's services in his home in Latrobe, Pa.

Joanie (Carroll) Snyder's remarks at our 45th Reunion class in June focused on remembering our 43 deceased classmates through our '78 class gift endowment she and Bob Rees initiated in February, 2024. Four months later, Joanie passed from a quick battle of pancreatic cancer. Joanie's '78 classmates join husband George, children, grandchildren in remembering a wonderful friend in Business classes, Basketball court and parties and life beyond John Carroll...

Thanks for writing!

1979 | Nancy Agacinski
nagacinski@yahoo.com

Hello, Friends

It is with a very heavy heart that I report that a dear friend of mine and many, **Michael Allison**, passed away on Friday, August 11, 2023. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his beloved wife Michele and their two sons, Ryan and Riley, and his brother Paul '75 of Naples, Florida. His funeral was Friday, August 25, 2023 in Coral Springs, Florida. In attendance were his best friend, Joseph Delguyd '82, former roommate, **Gary Tarquinio '79**, dear friend, Walter Reynoso '82, and me. It was a beautiful tribute to the wonderful man that Michael was. He always loved his Cleveland sports teams and coaching his kids' games as well. He never missed one of Ryan or Riley's games. He was a devoted husband, father, brother, friend, and colleague. He will be missed forever.

Homecoming was a beautiful day up on campus. IPT and UClub were celebrating 50-year anniversaries. Saw classmates **Al Hess** and his wife, Nancy, Stan Mambort '78 and his wife Wendy, **Jim Hoddick**, **Paul Lange**, and **Tim Lawley**. So wonderful to catch up.

JCU now has a women's wrestling team and they held a fantastic crowd at their first match at home against Lourdes University on November 1. The streaks lost 13-31 but the huge crowd was there to support them.

Jack Mulhall '76 and I were married on November 18, 2023. It was a beautiful fall day with sunny skies. We were surrounded by our families and many friends and had a most wonderful celebration of love.

Enjoyed a JCU basketball game against BW at the end of January with John Simon '76, Alan Evangelista '77, Kevin Hinkel '77, Al Bauco '76, Tom Corral '77 and Jack Mulhall '76. Brian Polian '97, the JCU Athletic Director, came by to talk to us about JCU's transition to the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) in fall of 2025. Very exciting times for JCU athletics!

Please don't forget that our 45th Reunion will be held June 7-9th, 2024 on campus. We're definitely not getting any younger, so if you've been wanting to return to campus and catch up with friends—THIS IS THE YEAR! Please come to enjoy a great weekend with fun activities and great times catching up and reminiscing with fellow classmates.

Every five...
Nancy Agacinski

1980 | Matt Holtz
mfh2885@sbcglobal.net

Greetings, Class—Hope all are doing well in 2024. Looking at the calendar tells me that in 2025 we will be celebrating 45 years since we walked the campus of John Carroll. Amazing timeframe, plus there is currently plenty of new construction on campus.

By the time you read this column I will be sipping on a Twisted Tea munching on a few Tostitos with salsa sitting under some palm tree somewhere enjoying retirement. Thirty-nine years at Medical Mutual is enough. Time to figure out my golf game (if that is possible) and keep playing pickleball.

A guy who totally enjoys watching pickleball is none other than **John Ettorre** who, along with spouse Julie, welcomed their latest grandson, Owen Ryder, born in September to son Patrick and daughter-in-law, Ashley, living in St. Louis. When John is not busy using his pen, he takes cultural journeys to the Art Museum where he runs into Irma DiFranco Cortez.

Tom Burland, a Certified Executive Coach, dropped a note indicating that he is enjoying his retirement immensely with his three grandsons. All his five kids live within 40 minutes so he has plenty of visiting options. Tom and Helen recently celebrated 40 years of marriage. I have two kids in Chicago and one in Cincinnati—very drivable but a tad longer than 40 minutes.

Dave Daigler (Starsky) is doing well up in Maine serving as President of Maine Community College System. Dave heard that **Mark Hutchison** went on back-to-back bike rides in the Santa Cruz Islands and Innsbruck. As of this writing I have not been able to confirm but maybe in the next column. Stay tuned.

I tracked down former Bennett Hall RA, **Kevin Tighe**, who as of this writing was enjoying a trip to Hawaii with Stacy visiting their daughter and son-in-law. No details but going to Hawaii is on my list of places to visit and sounds pretty exciting.

Gary Szelagowski is enjoying active retirement. He recently enjoyed Rotary's Night at the Races with **Judy (Wasserman)** and **Kevin Caine**. A portion of the proceeds went to Project White Butterfly, a nonprofit founded by Gary's daughter Sara. Gary serves as the board chair. Project White Butterfly is committed to reaching out to those living with addiction in order to provide them with support and resources. Rich Kenney '78 served as an emcee—also attending was daughter Diana '12, brother Jim, and his wife Megan.

Fellow Baldwin-Wallace MBA classmate, **Tina Romano-Allen**, dropped a note that she retired from the corporate world in 2024. She still does some occasional HR consulting to keep her busy but not too much that prevents her travel plans. Sounds like a good balance that is a reasonable goal to try to maintain during retirement.

Lastly I had the opportunity to work with Key Bank Personal Banker, Nicholas Gazella '23, in setting up a new account. Sorta made me feel old but cool to connect with a new recent JCU grad.

Drop a line anytime.
MFH

1981 | Bob Hill
soar1@aol.com

1982 | Mark McDonnell
Seeking Class Columnist

This past September, I finished my term on the Alumni Board, and this will be my last class notes column. I enjoyed both experiences but know this is the right time to move onto other activities. I would like to thank Larry Oskowski '93 and Lisa Zone '99 for their leadership and guidance during my tenure and the

Alumni Board. It is their dedication that makes John Carroll such a special place for all of us.

I would also like to thank Dave Vitaeo '00 for all his dedication to the University, Alumni Board, and the McCarthy Scholarship. I wish Dave the best in his new position knowing that to many of us he will be irreplaceable to the school.

I received the following note from **Stacey Sanner**: I attended the May 2023 JCU graduation to see my nephew Trevor Luce graduate magna cum laude with a BA in Exercise Science. Trevor, like me, is from Erie, Pennsylvania. It was my first time back on campus in likely 25 years. It was a joy to be back and so meaningful to me to see him graduate from "my" school. I have been living in the greater Seattle area for 17 years. I relocated here from NYC where I had lived for 13 years to join my husband Reggie who moved here to work with Nintendo of America. He was with the company 15 years, 13 as its President and COO. I initially continued working in PR which I had done in the entertainment business in Cleveland, LA and NYC. There is not much of an entertainment business out here, so, for a variety of reasons, I transitioned to working with area law enforcement. I combined my PR skills with my hobbies of writing and photography to create a self-published coffee table interview/photo book in 2010 called, "Keeping a Blue Light On: A Citizen's Tribute to the Seattle Police Department." (<https://keepingabluelighton.com/>) This book was done to honor five Seattle-area officers who were killed in ambush murders in late 2009. I then went on to create my own video production business making PR, recruiting, and training videos for a range of law enforcement agencies in this area.

1983 | Mark Schroeder
briome@auctionbrio.com
Phone: 216.210.2020

Our class really is an impressive one. Over the years that I have written this column, I have been able to share the joy of successes and recognitions bestowed upon many classmates in their professional fields, creative artistry, literary works, and community service. What's truly impressive is that JCU recognizes the impact our class has made to the University and to the community.

1982



Staci Sanner '82, her nephew Trevor Luce, and husband Reggie Fils-Aime

Last fall, **Jane (Broeren) Lambesis** was the recipient of the distinguished Alumni Medal. The class of '83 now has three Alumni Award winners. **Deb Solyan** was honored as the Rev. William Bichl Award recipient. Classmates **Sandra Ryan**, **Colleen (Hyland) Robertson**, **Aggie Nagy**, **Mary (Power) Patton**, **Sheila Nelson**, **Sheila (Begane) Bauschelt**, and **Jim Brown** attended the ceremony in support of our award winners. Recently, **Lisa (Amato) Reid** was recognized by the Cleveland Italian American Heritage Committee. Lisa received the 2023 City of Cleveland Italian American Heritage Month Public Servant Award in the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda. Attending Lisa's award and acceptance speech was Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb and other dignitaries. Lisa continues her law practice and is representing five of Ohio's public pension funds. Congratulations to Lisa, Jane, and Deb. **Kevin Cusack** keeps moving up in business. Kevin moved into a new position at Sherwin Williams as the Senior Technology Modernization Trainer. The first JCU baseball team to make the NCAA playoffs is making their 40th Reunion at the end of April. The baseball team of '84 will set up a tent at the April 27th home doubleheader against Wilmington. Come cheer on the current Streaks and see some old baseball friends. Congratulations to **Chris** and **Beth Ann (McCombs) Coughlin**, welcoming their second grandchild, Anna Grace, on December 4, 2023. For all the old athletes out there, JCU is moving out of the Ohio Athletic Conference, the OAC, after 2024 and will move into the North Coast Athletic Conference, the NCAC in 2025. The announcement took me and a number of my football and baseball teammates by surprise. It's possible you are reading about this switch for the first time. It was an unforeseen bold move. **Tom Wancho** spent 26 years and three months working for the state of Texas. He spent the last 22 years and three months at the Texas State History Museum in Austin. I never took advantage of his complimentary passes. Now he is retired, living in Austin, Texas and I have to pay full price for admission. Tom no longer sets an alarm clock to wake up or battle the horrific Austin traffic

into work. Shouldn't all of us have the Belch's lifestyle? The man is happy! Email me with family news, business updates and like, and contribute to "JCU Class of '83" on Facebook.

1984 | Don D'Amore

jcuclassof84@yahoo.com

Let us take a moment and think about how many things have happened in the last 40 years. Starting with when we left the JCU campus, President Ronald Regan was only in his first term, and the Berlin Wall was still standing...until five years later! No doubt we each have had many monumental things in our lives as well over these four decades. Our 40th Reunion is just around the corner on June 7–9, 2024! It will be a great time for you to share your past four decades of life highlights with those you grew to know so well during our four early 1980s years at JCU!...

As she has done in the past, our Digital Media Specialist classmate **Shannon (Carry) Dolan** has started the ball rolling by organizing our class Reunion Facebook group! She has also helped with the current class Reunion committee. They have been gathering for Zoom meetings to help plan the big weekend! Some of the other classmates who have joined in are: **Tim Cavanagh, Dave Johnson, Dave Gaston, Mary Ann (Wall) Bobillo, Jim Mahoney, Bob Schufreider, Mike Carswell, Tim Tabar, Ed Cooper, John Dempsey, Janet (Gill) Kennedy, Barb (Endre) Freund, Sally (Wussler) Harrington, and Dave Olderman!** Each one of them offers a great reason to attend and reconnect at our Reunion this time! I am glad I also asked Shannon to share some of her own news for this issue. Shannon says: "Mike and I are now empty nesters! Both still working but making time for each other as well. This past year, Mike walked the entire Camino (500+ miles through France), we met at the end for a wonderful week together in Paris to celebrate our 30th wedding Anniversary. We met up with **Kathy Davidson** who resides just outside Paris. We had a wonderful visit and tour of her old stomping grounds in Paris where she taught school and raised her family. She is looking forward to attending this year's Reunion as well! We also took a whirlwind tour of Ireland with our three adult children last summer. I must admit it's great vacationing with kids when they offer to pick up a few tabs along the way! All in all, we can't complain, life is good." (Our collective class thanks go out

to Shannon and the Reunion committee for helping create what will no doubt be another great Reunion! Check out Shannon's Facebook JCU Class of 84 Reunion group for the latest news, and also to see some photos I submitted that my father took on our graduation day in 1984!)

As we reflect on our 40 years since JCU, it is also a good time to remember our classmates who we have lost too soon. I received an update from Sal D'Angelo '86 regarding the scholarship fund he has started for his brother (our classmate and JCU sports legend) **Nick D'Angelo**. Sal says they recently funded a scholarship in Nick's name at JCU, and they held a fundraiser for it on February 23rd, (Nick's birthday) at the Generations Reception & Event Center in Chesterland, Ohio, which is owned by the Albino family (Mike Albino, JCU class of 1983?). You can donate to the Nick A. D'Angelo Scholarship by writing a check payable to John Carroll University c/o Advancement Office, 1 John Carroll Boulevard, University Heights, OH 44118. Please write "D'Angelo Scholarship" in the memo line. You can also call the Alumni Relations Office at 216-397-4516 to make a gift as well.

On a personal note, my wife **Michelle (Scianguola)** and I celebrated the joyful wedding of another "Carroll Couple" this past September! We were filled with pride and love when our son Adam D'Amore '14 married his wonderful bride Ellen Kriz '14! It was such a picturesque wedding day at the beautiful backdrop of the historical Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio. We are so happy to welcome Ellen into our family! Over 30 JCU Alumni (including three Alumni Magazine Class Columnists) attended the event! (It helps make it easier to gather such a crowd together because I have over 12 JCU alumni (Five Carroll Couples!) in my immediate family of siblings/spouses and their children!) (Look for the photo of the JCU group at Adam & Ellen's wedding in this issue!)

Let us know about the joy filled events in your life!

Don

1985 | Diane Nerem Wendel

WendelFamily10514@gmail.com

Hello, fellow Blue Streaks! Some sad news to report on the sudden loss of our classmate, **Dr. Antonio "Tony" Ripepi**,

this past December as a beloved father, accomplished surgeon, and passionate outdoorsman. Tony will be remembered for his academic and athletic career at JCU for not only his prowess as a hot dog eating champion and a four-year rugby player and team captain, but for his warmth, sense of humor, and compassion. After medical school and fellowship as a trained laparoscopic surgeon, he returned to Pittsburgh after the first surgeon in the city. A fly fisherman of notable repute, he left his mark on the angling world by inventing the "Washington Red Ant" fly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his four children; Lillie Grace, Natalie Jo, Antonio Philip and John Ronald...

Elizabeth Lisa Lansky (pen name is Lisa Black) just released another stellar book, "The Deepest Kill." Congratulations! I was excited to hear from **Martin Maude** this past fall. Martin writes, "Let's see, 25 years in the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Heading back to JCU next weekend for a Fraternity Reunion. The Brotherhood of Iota Phi Theta. Spent eight years in the Army Reserves after graduating JCU. A Signal Corps Officer. Ended up as a Company Commander in an Armor Training Unit. Been married to my wife Marita for 25 years. She's the one who got me into the Shannon Rovers. She plays the bagpipes, like her Father did. I have four kids. My daughter, McKenzie, who's in her senior year at St Louis University, studying Speech Pathology. I have triplet boys. My one son, Kieran, is in his sophomore year at University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Studying to be a Special Ed Teacher. My other son, Emmett, is a fifth-year senior at Palatine High School. My last son, Ryan is in the Adult Transition Program at Palatine High School. That's about it for me." Terrific news, Martin! ... Congratulations to **Brian Boose** on the birth of his grandson, Carter Patrick Boose, who arrived this January! **Mary Pat (Bluemle) Maretz** also anxiously awaits the birth of her first grandchild this week as I write... Michael Long '84 and **Teri (Johnson) Long** celebrated the marriage of both daughters within 3 ½ months of each other! Congratulations to Chelsie and Tom Lindsey (7/5/23) and Anna & Noah Washko (10/21/23). **Meg (Flaherty) Huwar** celebrated the nuptials of her son, Nathan, this past December, too. Congratulations and if you need any marketing advice look Meg up as her Brand Accelerator company is in demand (TheBrandAccelerator.com)! A few classmates have become Florida snowbirds. **Peggy (Bertsch) Currier** and



1987



(Pictured above) Class of '87: L to R, Greg Nairn '88, Eddie Jacobs '88, Mark "Oz" Oswald '88, Dave Clifford '87, Jim Hansen '88, Art Johanson '85, Kevin Garmey '88

Larry Blum are enjoying the Floridian golf lifestyle. Perhaps pickleball, canasta, and mahjong will be added to their repertoire as well?...As for me, my wanderlust continues. Montana marked my 50th state last year and now I'm venturing onto my bucket list of hikes: Wainwright's Coast to Coast hike across the UK, Spain's Portuguese Camino Way this past summer, and currently planning a few hikes in Italy this summer with my daughter in Cinque Terre and the Amalfi Coast. I'd love to hear from all of you!

God bless xo xo
Diane

1986 | Jenny Labuda and Karen Judy

Gflabuda@aol.com
karenjfoley@gmail.com

Cheers to 2024!! Big year for the Class of 1986—we'll all be entering a new decade! Please share with us all the ways you'll be celebrating 60 years young—printable disclosures only. And now for the Class Update—

Janet Kosmerl '85 and **Dan Gaugler** were spotted in Chicago at the Cleveland Westside Irish wedding of Jack Walsh (son of Cauchi Coyne) and Kierra Murray. Dan relayed the story of an RA party at Missy Crockett's house back in 1984. There, a fortune teller predicted he'd marry one of the gals at the party. And behold, we now have Mrs. Janet Gaugler! So cute. Dan and Janet also work together at Dan's financial advising company. Young JCU love at its best!

Large Dowdle and his son Colin are now in business together. They co-founded Lillipad, a company that makes storable electric standing desks. Maybe a new dorm furniture option? Check it out!

In celebration of the season, **PJ Kissane** and **Mike Anderson** were guests (or DJs??) at a White House Christmas Gala. They enjoyed

the festive decorations, good company, and free libations. Mike continues to be a JCU underachiever—he's currently a Senior Advisor on pediatric disaster response for HHS and is honored to work with the White House on several important matters. Mike even goes to the same Catholic Church as Joe (and not Gurgone!) in DC for Sunday mass. Such a good Catholic boy!

Many of our classmates are doing their part keeping **Billy O'D**'s Blue Ash Farms bourbon in business. Off the slopes of Colorado, **Randall Koczara** was in Chicago recently, so he met up with Billy for a specialty bourbon cocktail. **Howie Collins** has been known to indulge in a Blue Ash bourbon or two. Rumor has it that **Maureen Lennon** and **Beth Bonanno** are throwing back maple bourbon cocktails at their weekly Friday Happy Hours. Murphy Hall Party Girl, **Maria Amelio**, adds it to her famous orecchiette pasta (or does she drink it while making pasta or both?), while **John Schumacher** enjoys a nice bourbon hot chocolate. Great effort Class of '86!!!

Two of our best class athletes, **James 'Milties' Milton Marsh** and **Greg Finnan**, completed a two-man hike/canoe race last summer in the Tetons. They finished fourth out of 38 teams in the 55–60 year age bracket. The race was a 12-mile hike with elevation change of almost 3,000 feet, followed by canoeing 18 miles. Rest assured, no beer was lost during the canoe segment of the race.

Speaking of hiking, **George Blaha** is preparing to complete the Walk Around Erie this summer. It's an event that raises money to help with youth fishing, sailing, and water safety in all states and provinces that touch Lake Erie. Amazing effort—almost 900 miles in 60 days. I'm sure George would love the company of fellow Bernet boys—**Bill Kahl**, **Bobby Conrad**, Large and **John Scanlon**—on this expedition. Registration is currently open.

A special shout out to Howie for his thorough investigative reporting in keeping us apprised of all the amazing things the Class of '86 is up to. Keep the news coming!

Cheers!!

Karen Judy and Jenny Labuda

1987 | Dennis Casey

dcasey87@comcast.net

Hello 1987—

Not as many updates for this edition, but some good news for our class as always from across the miles.

I start with one that I know we can all get around and support, and that is our friend and classmate **Bob Mayer's** continued challenge with his ALS diagnosis. We can all help by considering a contribution to a Go Fund Me campaign to help the Mayers manage all of the extensive costs since Bob can no longer work and Laura has not been able to work due to her longtime chronic health condition. Once at the Go Fund Me site, search for the Bob Mayer '87 Family Go Fund Me page. Please consider contributing. The Class of 87 is always with you, Bob!

In the spirit of giving and helping others, **Renee Sliwiak** and her husband Dustin joined **Dave Clifford** and his wife Nellie helping one of Dave's students at JCU who started a nonprofit organization called More than Food. Renee, Dustin, Dave, Nellie, and a team helped 235 guests enjoy a meal together. Dave's own nonprofit called For the Greater Good helps the people of Cleveland who are without shelter. Well done, Renee, Dustin, Dave, and Nellie!

Philip Bevilacqua's research had a direct impact on his colleagues' earning a 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Phil is the Co-Director, Center for RNA Molecular Biology; Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Penn State. Phil has his PhD from the University of Rochester. Congratulations, Phil!

Congratulations are in order for several classmates and their families. **Tom Barrett's** daughter, Megan, was recently married. **Steve** and **Maria Imburgia's** son, Joe, is engaged to his fiancée, Jackie Maka, with a 2024 wedding plans underway. Joe is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army following his degree from Boston College and a member of the ROTC program there following Steve's ROTC service from JCU. **Anita (Felice)** and **Jim Kazmierczak** welcomed their grandson, Hank, who was born to their son Tommy and his wife Lydia.

Dave "Dr. Big Red Dog" Clifford enjoyed some time with his fellow Circle K/ Sigma Delta Kappa brothers recently,

and later got together with a few of these "knuckleheads" to play euchre at Oz's.

As always, much is happening and changing on campus and across JCU's network. If you have been on campus, you undoubtedly have seen the construction progress of the massive fieldhouse and indoor athletic building rising on what was the main parking lot off Belvoir. Many other improvements, including the opening of the remodeled Pacelli Hall, took place this academic year. Nearly every dorm now has been updated or remodeled. Yet another remodel and improvements to the library are underway now and the atrium in the Lombardo Student Center was completely redone. A major move taking the Blue Streaks from the Ohio Athletic Conference to the North Coast Athletic Conference will be a great move for JCU and our student athletes beginning in the 2025 seasons.

Stay in touch and until next issue, Onward, on!

Dennis, Facebook @jcuclassof87

1988 | Sharon Byrnes

sharon.byrnes@ey.com

Hi, everyone!

Hope you're all doing well! I'm writing this on a sunny February day and by the time you get this...Spring will be even closer!

The few updates I have this time are the very best kind to share...happy life events for two of our classmates:

On September 9, **Michelle LoSchiavo** got married to Paul Bearden! It was a gorgeous ceremony at St. Dominic's Church and a beautiful reception at Shaker Country Club. Many classmates were in attendance to celebrate Michelle and Paul's special day. **Ellen (Maglicic) Kramer**, **Julia (Welsh) Lundy**, **Beth (Galle) deVente**, **Cindy (Constantaki) Russell**, **Mary (Baugh) Martin**, **Cynthia Sech**, **Peggy (Carlin) Sparrow**, **Lisa Verszyla Sieckowski**, me and Karen Welsh Levis '87. Kris Koch, '89 was the fabulous DJ that night and took us all back to JCU with our favorite music. It was a wonderful celebration and then the newlyweds enjoyed a three-week honeymoon in Italy. CONGRATULATIONS to Michelle and Paul!

On October 28, **Rinette Scarso** got married to Mark Straffen! The wedding ceremony was at St. Francis of Assisi

in Gates Mills and the reception was at St. Clair Ballroom in downtown Cleveland. Mark had just retired as a Battalion Chief from the Cleveland Fire Department after 33 years. Thanks to Mark for his dedicated service and a big CONGRATULATIONS to Rinette and Mark! Rinette is working as a Transformation Delivery Principal (IT Consulting) at Dell Technologies. Rinette and Mark moved to Richfield, Ohio and are keeping themselves busy merging households and enjoying life as newlyweds! All the best to the happy couple!

That's all I have to share this time. I hope that everyone is doing well and making the most of wherever you find yourself. I don't know if any of you feel this way but I feel like time moves much faster these days than it did when we were at JCU. All the more reason to take the time to connect with each other...especially if it has been a while. Think about one or two JCU friends who you haven't talked with in a while...and reach out. There's something truly special about connecting with an old friend who knows our history and shares good times from our past.

JUST DO IT!

All the best, Sharon

1989 | David Gassman

dgassmktvp@aol.com

Greetings, '89ers and happy 2024. Hard to believe but this summer will be the 35th year anniversary of when we gathered in the quad to grab that diploma we were all working towards in the Spring of 1989. I hope that we have a decent turnout and I see many of you in University Heights over the June 7–9 weekend. Not much news to report this quarter but I keep trying to reach out. **Lauree 'Pop' (Popovich) Criss** is living in Hilton Head, South Carolina and has a new business that caters to second home owners and non-rental properties. She offers a weekly home watch service along with concierge needs for her clients. Check out the website at atourservicehiltonhead.com.

Pop was in Pittsburgh for Xmas and saw **Michelle (Sinneway) McPeak** and all is good. She also got together recently in Hilton Head with **Sue (Zachary) Maher** and husband Rob for some laughs or

several!! All the best Lauree...Well, Blue Streaks, keep your eyes and ears open for Alumni Weekend info and hope to see you there...

Peace, David

1990 | Seeking Class Columnist

1991 | Mike Case

mikecase10@aol.com

Hello, Greatest Class Of 'Em All! I just saw that JCU was switching athletic conferences to the NCAC. It brought me back to when we started, and we were in the PAC, then switching to the OAC junior year, and now a new conference. And, it's not a bad thing. All things, and people, need to evolve. But, remembering our past is important.

The latest column brought out a few folks that wanted to send an update on themselves, which I absolutely love. **Chuck Coletta** wrote and said he's a college professor at BGSU in the Pop Culture department. He says he teaches everything from film classes to comic books and has co-chaired



Class of '91: Vince Ricchiuiti's annual alumni dinner



Bob Connors, Greg Seidleck, Bill McNamara, and Jim Hamilton



Andy Piech and Marc Surray



1992

Roseanne (Nowinski) Deucher '92 hiking in Nepal this past December.

conferences on Batman and Spider-Man. That. Is. Awesome! Chuck does a lot of traveling—he's going back to Italy this year and wishes us all the best. So cool! **Vince Ricchiuti** hosted his annual alumni dinner in January in Akron, and this year I got to go. It was great to see some familiar faces from the past, and I've included a few pics. About 40 people enjoyed the evening that included dinner, music, and free lobster! Kudos to **Jim Hamilton** who came all the way from Naples, Florida to be there.

Time for America's favorite portion of this column: Three questions with Mike. Today we hear from one of the funniest people I know, **Meghan Fay**. Favorite Night Spot: It's a tie. The Colony and Café Rock. I loved the Rat but the school ruined that. Class You Did The Worst In: Dr. Pugh, Philosophy. I think I got a C... Editor's note, I was in this class. An 8 a.m. class is a bad idea. One Bit of Advice For Incoming Freshman: Put yourself out there. No one is cool. Everyone is a nerd looking for good friends. Just find friends you love and stick with them for a lifetime. I am so glad I have my amazing friends from JCU. They are the best in the world. And, finally this: I saw **Dan Hewett** at the JCU dinner. He looks great, but if you hadn't heard, Dan finished a 50-mile bike ride for charity last summer and then promptly had a heart attack. After some quick work at the hospital, Dan got the medical attention he needed and is good as new. Luckily, he was right next to the EMS people or we might not have him right now. His advice? "It's a reminder... you never know." In other words, live like it's your last day. I totally agree.

Just so you know, this column is gaining traction. I've heard from people in other classes that love reading about us. So I hope you can spread the word and get this to people that don't get the magazine. And, please reach out, I get bored. My email is mikecase10@aol.com. See you soon, I hope.

Rock on Class of '91!

1992 | **Gina (Catalano) Cain**
rlcain92@gmail.com

1993 | **Bonnie Waiwood-Oskowski**
theoskowskis@cox.net

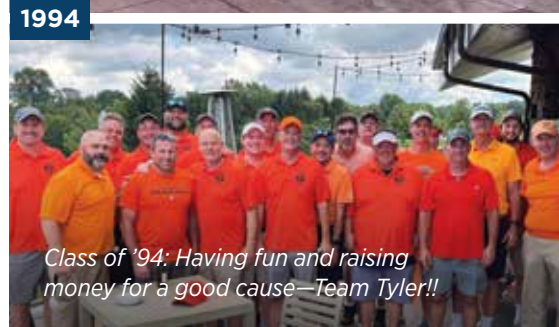
1994 | **Katie (Gerba) Niehaus**
gerbafamily@yahoo.com

It's Reunion Time!! I can't believe we have been out of college for 30 years. Mark your calendars for June 7-9. I think you would love to get on campus and see all the changes. Millor Hall is down, and the new fieldhouse is in progress. The atrium of the Rec Plex was transformed. They downsized the bookstore and removed the mailboxes from where we remember them to be. Lots of upgrades to the dorms, workout areas, and the new addition of the nursing program. Call your friends and get everyone back on campus. It will be great to see everyone!! Until then, I have heard from the Caserta girls. **Lana (Caserta) Zachlin** is the Cybersecurity Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She and her husband, Paul Zachlin, live in Shaker and have two children, ages 24 and 21. **Laura Caserta** is a Pediatrician at Senders Pediatrics in South Euclid. She and her husband, John, also live in Shaker and have two children, ages 19 and 16. **Susie (Jurisevic) Krecji** and her husband Pat Krecji '93 live outside of Charlotte, North Carolina. They work in the biotech and healthcare industries. Their three children and careers keep them very busy. They stopped by campus, and brought their children for a visit - keep getting those future Blue Steaks ready!

Let's congratulate **Jeremy R. Sayre** on his selection to the 2023 Employment Power List by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The annual list recognizes attorneys across the state who "stand out in employment law." Another congratulations goes out to **Frank Kuhar** for finding love again and getting engaged after losing his first wife to cancer. Unfortunately, we also lost a classmate. **Laura (Bell) Affer** died in September. **Adam Schneier** reached out to let me know that he has been organizing a small golf outing for the past 15 years which raises money for the United Cerebral Palsy. It has become a memorial event in memory of Tyler Spicuzza, son of **Chris Spicuzza**. There are usually about 20 guys who play in it and they have now raised over \$40,000 for UCP. A great group of '94 grads support the outing - including **Adam Schneier, Chris Spicuzza, Dave Ruppel, Skip Dennert, Mark Vasilaskas, Angel Rodriguez, Joe Parks, Sean Mee, Mark Carlson, Ed Musbach, Kevin Robinson, and Steve Shamrock**.



Class of '94: Susie (Jurisevic) '94 and Pat Krecji '93 visited campus with their children



Class of '94: Having fun and raising money for a good cause—Team Tyler!!

Thanks to everyone for sending these updates. Feel free to share news with me either by email or the JCU Class of 1994 Facebook page. Hope to see you at our Reunion this summer!!

1995 | **Annie DePerro**
anniedeperro@gmail.com

I read an article recently about the downsizing of a home, the aftershocks of building a life and accumulating "things" to support a family only to realize as your children go away to college or work that the treasures once so necessary have simply become dust collectors. For my origin family, the letting go began seven years ago when we moved my parents into an apartment after my mom's diagnosis with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). Many of the "treasures" unearthed in the basement got discarded but the family photos with fading ink on the back of them remained in clear plastic storage bins. Those pictures became the fodder for stories my siblings and I told this January as we prepared for mom's funeral. I found a photo from my wedding of my mom standing glamorously with **Carole (Chandler) Sullivan's** mom and **Michelle (Cull) Lease's** mom. I did not anticipate the outpouring of support and empathy I felt from the John Carroll community when I posted about my mom. I was comforted by words from **Kelly (Miller) Stukus** and **Claire (Mooney) Dehorn**, both of whom lost their dads recently. I



Class of '98: Annie Slota 1998

read every message from Facebook and Instagram to my dad, who loved hearing messages of peace about his beautiful wife, Lari Hummer. Just a couple of days after my mom passed, **Ines (Bafaru) Lascu** lost her mother too. The next week, **Chris Ryan** lost his dad. I felt less alone in reading their stories and grateful to share in their grief. Grief is a funny thing. To honor my mom, I kept showing up at Catholic Churches around Cleveland...I cried while attending mass at St. Stephen's in Ohio City when they sang, "I Am the Bread of Life." **Kathy (Apple) Francis** and I finally celebrated our January birthdays at Cleveland's Wyne Bar in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood, where we toasted my mom and were joined by an ophthalmologist from Metro Health at our table. His short stature and round frame and quiet way of interacting was eerily similar to my mother. **Annie (Shane) Bayne**, Michelle, Carole, Kathy, and Claire continue to make me laugh every day and distract me with football stories, a game my mom developed an appreciation for later in life. To **Gil (Geeding) Cooper** and **Amy (Collins) Staas**, who met up in Florida recently, thank you for posting on FB to remind us all that life goes on. To all the recent additions to the Class of 1995 Facebook group, thank you for messaging me and sharing your stories.

1996 | Genesis Brown
orionbrown222@hotmail.com

1997 | Brian Sparks
BDSparks@meistermedia.com

1998 | Michael Gildea
mgildea@braingainllc.com

Hello, Everyone! Congratulations to **Nick Caserio**, General Manager of the Houston Texans and the entire organization on their AFC South divisional title and playoff season. Here is to continued success and good luck in the next NFL season.

Annie Slota traveled to her cousin's wedding in Lugo, Spain last summer. Part of the trip included a stop at the birthplace of St. Ignatius in the Basque country. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Sam Subity's next novel for kids, "Valor Wings," is due to be released on September 17, 2024. It is set in WWII and described as Dunkirk with dragons. To find out more or to pre-order the book, please visit Sam's website at samsubity.com.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer in the sun. For ongoing updates and news from your fellow classmates, please check out our Class of 1998 Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/jcu1998.

Mike

1999 | Christine Weimer Papesch
christinepapesch@yahoo.com

Greetings, Class of '99!

It's hard to believe that this year marks 25 years since graduating JCU! Please mark your calendars for June 7 and 8 for Reunion Weekend. I had the chance to walk around campus recently with



Class of '99 - Fr. Alan (Vince) Benander



Amanda (Slater) Polito

Abolitionist Twilights
History, Meaning, and the Fate of Racial Egalitarianism, 1865-1909
Raymond James Krohn
Raymond Krohn

my oldest (and hit Pizazz for dinner with the family) who is beginning the college application process and am amazed at the number of changes happening on campus. I never had the chance to visit the Dolan Science Center until one of my children attended a Science Olympiad competition last year, even though the building was completed while finishing my MBA at JCU. If you haven't had the chance, be sure to visit. It is a beautiful facility. And the (formerly) main parking lot on South Belvoir—now a construction zone—will soon be home to a new athletic center. Despite all of these additions, there is no doubt that the beauty of the campus has been maintained.

Raymond Krohn, assistant professor of history at Boise State University (Idaho), recently authored a book-length study on the nature of white allyship after the Civil War, titled, "Abolitionist Twilights: History, Meaning, and the Fate of Racial Egalitarianism, 1865-1909." In the book (pictured below), he specifically examines the historical writings and humanitarian commitments of veteran abolitionists amid turning-point moments in American race relations. Congratulations to Raymond on his first published book!

I also received an update from **Amada (Slater) Polito**, who was inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Hall of Fame in September. She has worked in television for 25 years, with 20 of those years spent in Nevada. Currently, she is a director at the Las Vegas NBC affiliate, KSNV. She shared, "I am putting my Communications and English degrees from Carroll to good use! It was an honor to be inducted in front of almost every important figure in the state of Nevada..." Quite the accomplishment! Congratulations to Amanda!

Just a week before submitting this column, my husband, Erich, ran into none other than **Fr. Alan (Vince) Benander**, who shared a flight with him from Cleveland to Dallas. Fr. Alan was en route back to California, where he is a member of the Norbertine Order. Last summer, he ran the Cleveland Marathon to raise funds for Pro-Life Wisconsin, which he became involved with while stationed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Word on the street is that he plans to run the marathon again this year, so good luck to our

fellow classmate, as well as any others participating in this year's marathon!

Please be sure to submit any updates to share with our classmates, and hopefully many of us will be able to catch up in person this June!

Onward On!
Christine

2000 | Lisa (Foster) Smith and Clare Taft
lisasmith19@hotmail.com
claretaft@hotmail.com

2001 | Maureen (Fariello) DeMers
2001jcu@gmail.com

2002 | Kristen (Muoio) McVean
muoiok@hotmail.com

In this column, we'll remember and honor our dear classmate, **Frank Percaciante**, who passed away two years ago this past December. Frank was kind and generous. His easy smile and friendly personality made JCU an even happier place for his many friends, as well as those who simply crossed paths with him. John Carroll was an extension of home for Frank—his mom, Lois, worked in the copy center, and she would bring Frank and his housemates, **Tom Kaufman, Erik Warren, Matt Mileskiewicz, and Brenden Joillet** her famous meatballs and pasta dinners. Frank played Defensive End for our Blue Streaks and was on the team all four years. He was a Finance major and following graduation, he worked with the Boler School of Business to incorporate strategic planning into the Finance curriculum. Frank loved John Carroll, and really embodied the Jesuit philosophy of being a "man for others," believing strongly in volunteerism and always lending a hand to those in need. Frank



Class of '02: The Percaciante family

was deeply devoted to his wife, **Megan (Macho)** who he met at John Carroll on his nineteenth birthday. He was very proud of and dedicated to his family, especially their four beautiful daughters, Mia, Madeline, Frankie, and Sophia. He exemplified the true essence of love and commitment as a husband and father. I connected with Megan recently and she let me know that Mia, their oldest daughter, wants to attend JCU like her parents. She is planning a formal campus visit and would like to pursue an education degree. Go Mia! We are grateful for Frank's spirit and will always remember the positive impact he left on John Carroll and the Class of 2002.

2003 | Lori Culliton
lori.culliton@gmail.com

2004 | Paul Clapp
paulclapp@gmail.com

Classmates—Can you believe we are coming up on our 20-year Reunion on June 7-9? There will be so many people coming in for this Reunion, start planning now!! It will be great to catch up in person with everyone. Until then, here are two quick updates.

Congratulations to **Theresa (Spada) Yacobozzi** and her husband Chris who welcomed their first son William at the end of August. They sent in a great family/newborn photo.

Lauren (Stockhausen) Gilmore sent an update celebrating her 18th year in education! She was thrilled to share that she spent the past 12 years shaping young minds as a first-grade teacher in Wicomico County Public Schools. This year, she is on the verge of completing her National Board Certification—a rewarding journey for sure! Beyond the classroom, Lauren ventured into the world of wellness. As a 500-hour registered yoga teacher, she is the proud owner of a thriving yoga studio, honored to be named the best in Wicomico County, Maryland, for the sixth consecutive year. She is enjoying life to the fullest at the beach on the Eastern Shore of Maryland!

Best Regards, Paul

2005 | Jennifer Tolhurst
jtolhurst@gmail.com

2006 | Allison Kaufman
allisonkaufman@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 2006! I hope 2024 is off to a wonderful start. Our class has so many exciting updates to share.

Bethany (Glassbrenner) Beal and her husband Tom, welcomed daughter Rachel Mary Eleanor on April 8. Bethany currently serves on the John Carroll Alumni Board, alongside **Tony Grego** and **Rory O'Neil**, too. **Angielique (Lokaj)** and her husband Nate Moss '08 recently moved back to her hometown of Buffalo, New York with their five children, Nathan Jr., Henry, Rose, Louis, and George. Nate got out of the Navy in July and is now the regional medical director for General Motors.

Mike Vidmar is now the Director of Acquisitions at Marous Development Group and serves on the board at Zelie's home and Sts. Joseph and John School. He and his wife **Alex (Macuga)** live in Strongsville, Ohio with their three children, Savannah, Mikey, and Betsy. **Bill Costigan** joined the Board of Directors of Global Interdependence Center. He lives in Sun Valley, Idaho. **Katie (Kenefick) Sivic** was admitted as a partner to Chiampou Travis and Kershner, LLP, a CPA firm in Amherst, New York. **Kevin Conway** is now a Director of Lending Solutions at Acuity Knowledge Partners. He and his wife, Jackie, live in Omaha, Nebraska with their three children, Sam, Aidan, and Fred. **Maeghan (Daly) Gorman** is an #IAMRemarkable facilitator and has presented the curriculum to over 200 women in business. She especially enjoys elevating and empowering women in the insurance industry. Maeghan and **Erik Gorman**, pricing manager at Emerson, live in Strongsville, Ohio with their teenage daughters, Madilynn and Eliza. **Art Antram** is living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was recently promoted to be a Market Manager of Innovation at The Boston Beer Company.



Class of '06: Art Antram

The JCU N.F.F.L (National Fantasy Football League) just completed its 22nd season, beginning in the T-Wing of Pacelli Hall during the first week of freshman classes in 2002. **Justin Albert, Adam Bodell, Shaun Castorano, Sean McCabe, Mark Sellers, John Farrell, Rory O'Neil, Tim Madigan, Tim Mahoney**, and this year's winner, **Dan Pyne**, competed this year. The entire league would like the class to know that JCU's Alumni Director, Rory O'Neil, has never won a championship in its 22-year history. There's always next year!

2007 | Lisa Iafelice Catalano and Brittany Bush
liafelice07@jcu.edu
bbush07@jcu.edu

We are saddened to share the passing of our classmate, **Elizabeth "Betsy" Needham** on January 11, 2024. Betsy has lived in Columbus for the past 12 years, most recently working as a Vice President, J. P. Morgan Wealth Management Controls. Sending our deepest condolences to Betsy's family and friends.

2008 | Ann Awadalla, D.O., F.A.C.O.I.
aawadalla08@gmail.com

Let's get right to it! Congratulations to **Ben Beehner** and his wife, Noreen, who welcomed their first daughter, Lowen Anoray, on October 21st. They recently met up with classmate **Marisa (Benich) Zaleski** and her five-month-old son, Felix. We are excited to have two new baby Blue Streaks on the West Coast! I personally wanted to share some news that my husband, Alex, and I, **Ann Awadalla**, welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Charlotte, on May 1, 2023. Her entrance into the world was a little challenging, being born at 22 weeks and then spending five months in the NICU. However, she is now home and we are so blessed that she is a happy, smiley baby bringing so much joy to our lives! Thank you to all who prayed for us—your prayers were felt and our miracle is here because of it! Speaking of babies, congratulations to **Ashley (Sandella) Sova** who earned her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership in August 2023 from the University of Dayton! She is also celebrating nine years as the Founder and President of CLEbaby,



2008
 Class of '08: Ashley (Sandella) Sova

a birth and parenting business that is helping with local doula services and sleep training nationwide! Looks like she can help a lot of us!

On a sad note, we lost one of our own in a tragic accident in April 2022—**Dr. Andrew Barone, DDS, MA '08**. He was so successful in that he had two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and a doctor of dental surgery degree as well. He had been working at a dental practice in Syracuse, New York at the time of his death. In his memory, his family has asked for donations to be made to John Carroll. He and his family will be in our prayers. While we are here to celebrate all the joys in life, it's also important to remember the sad times as well. Life is beautiful, but it can be so short. Love you all! XOXO

2009 | Lisa (Ugran) Pacconi
lugran09@jcu.edu

Happy Reunion Year, Class of '09! I had to triple-check my math because it is astonishing to realize that 15 years have officially gone by since our graduation and all the fond memories that were made leading up to it. This year, JCU Reunion Weekend occurs from Friday, June 7th through Sunday, June 9th. Hopefully, you are able to stop by campus for one or more of the events. It is sure to be a fantastic time!

In other fantastic news, **Theresa Kaschak** became engaged to Will Keizer in October 2023. Will proposed to Theresa at the place where they first met two

years prior. Theresa and Will are planning their wedding for 2025. They reside in Phoenix, AZ, with their dogs Barley, Sadie, and Banana.

Samantha Cocco works as a professional theater and film actor throughout Northeast Ohio and has expanded into playwriting. Her first full-length play, "Temptation of Adam," will be produced at Cleveland Public Theatre on March 14-16.

Pete Honsberger and his wife, Jenna, welcomed a daughter named Summer in February 2023. Summer joins her big sister, Kali, age three. Pete wrote and self-published the book, "The Curse of Captain Cole," which he enjoys reading to his daughters.

Be sure to stay connected with the Alumni Office either through social media or by updating your personal information on the website so that you receive timely information about Reunion festivities and learn about other ways that you can get involved with the JCU community.



2009

2010 | Megan O'Keefe
megokeefe10@gmail.com

Happy 2024! Time is flying and hoping the past year has brought happiness and good health to all.

Crystal Uvalle and Richard Houseman got married on December 9 in Pittsburgh with a big turn out from fellow Blue Streaks in attendance at the wedding.

Molly Onufer, Elizabeth (Vesio) Sullivan, Stefanie Aulicino, Rachel (DeAngelis) Cocita, Alyssa (Thimons) Pater '09, Brian Savolskis '06, Paul Purdy '07 and James Cocita '09 were in attendance.

2011 | Maura Jochum - **Seeking Class Columnist**
mfojochum@gmail.com

Greetings from University Heights! I hope this issue of Onward finds you well and enjoying springtime. Our Blue Streak family continues to expand!

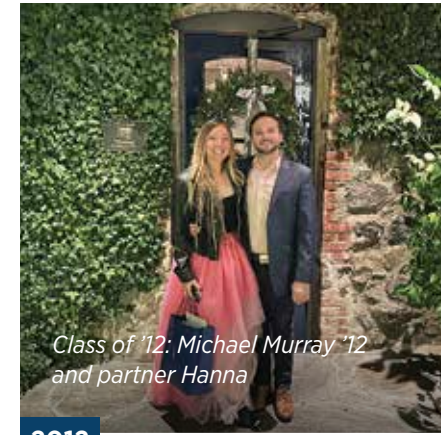
On August 29, 2023, **Brendan McCreary** and his wife, Rheana, welcomed their first baby, Thomas Patrick. The new family is happy and healthy and living outside of Tokyo, Japan where Brendan is still working with the U.S. Navy.

Annelyse (Giovannitti) '12 and **Joe Pyne** shared their excitement to have expanded their family by one more this past year. Cecelia Rose Pyne came into the picture on October 31, 2023, and they couldn't be happier. Her big brother Owen is equally as thrilled. Saying her name, giving her hugs, and helping feed her are a few of his favorite things. Annelyse and Joe are so grateful to have found one another during their time at JCU and even more grateful for their two amazing children!

And I am very excited to share that I am not the only member of the Class of 2011 walking across the Quad to work these days. **Nick Grady** returned to JCU as the Director of Undergraduate Admission in December 2022. Nick leads and manages JCU's efforts to recruit and enroll the next generation of Blue Streaks!

As for me, I am wrapping up law school in May 2024 and will be preparing for the bar exam this summer. Therefore, I am seeking a guest columnist for the Fall 2024 issue of Onward. If you are interested in writing for an issue, please send me an email.

With love for JCU,
 Maura



2012
 Class of '12: Michael Murray '12 and partner Hanna



2012
 Class of '12 & '13: Elizabeth Stark '12 and Andrew Billiter '13 are engaged

2012 | Emily Herfel, D.O.
eherfel12@jcu.edu

Happy New Year! My hope for our class is a year full of professional and personal growth as well as time cherished with family and friends. **Michael Murray** and his partner Hanna enjoy their time living in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Michael started a private chef business (Hen of the Woods Truckee) and he has now won best chef of Tahoe for the third year in a row! Hanna continues her thriving life coaching business. This winter they spent a lot of time skiing.

In Cleveland, **Danielle (Merkel) Manzeo** works at Julie Billiard School in Westlake as the assistant principal and director of special education. Danielle and her husband love spending time at home with their two-year-old son and family dog. She encourages JCU education majors to reach out—as the school loves JCU graduates!

Elizabeth Stark and her fiancé Andrew Billiter ('13), who met twelve years ago

at JCU, will be married in October 2024. Congratulations to you two—we look forward to seeing photos!

And to end on a delayed personal note, I was married in April 2023 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. We were so fortunate to have Fr. H. Paul Kim, a former JCU Minister in Residence and dear friend, who traveled from South Korea to be our celebrant. Many JCU alums were at the wedding!

May this year be the best yet!
 Emily Herfel

2013 | Larry Napoli
lnapoli1990@gmail.com

Carson Parish is an Associate Producer in the film department at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. He is an adjunct instructor at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan and also writes (along with his father) a bimonthly film column for the Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune titled "Take One, Take Two," that is believed to be the only movie column written by a father and son in the country!

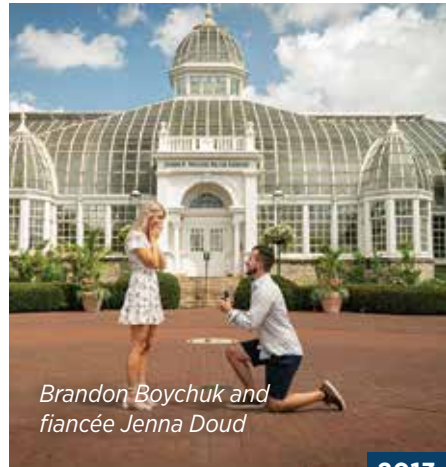
Rob Bellusci, and his wife, Emily, welcomed their first child, a girl, Frances June Bellusci, on July 31, 2023 in Houston, Texas.

Representative Nick Santucci and Alexis Novotny were married on September 2, 2023 at St. James Catholic Church in Warren, Ohio, followed by a reception at DiVieste's Banquet Hall, also in Warren. The couple currently resides in Howland, Ohio.

Matt Hoyt, and his wife, Mary, welcomed their second child, Joseph Fulton Hoyt, on August 10, 2023. Joseph will be suiting up for the Blue Streaks' football team very soon!

Kyle and **Katherine (Spillman) Irish** welcomed twin boys, Liam and Cole, on May 15, 2023.

Dr. Megan Lowes-Bolin published her first book in Fall 2023 entitled, "Ignite - the Secret to Engaging Young Adults in the Church." The book provides strategies and tips for those who are passionate about getting the younger generation involved with their faith communities. The book is available on Amazon for those interested in purchasing!



Brandon Boychuk and fiancée Jenna Doud

2013



Celin Caraballo

Sofia and **Brian Bayer** welcomed their first child, Lía Sofia, on December 5, 2023.

Brandon Boychuk and Jenna Doud were engaged at Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio, in the Fall of 2023. The couple is planning to wed on September 28, 2024 at The Cove at Waters Edge in Columbus. Brandon was introduced to Jenna, a travel nurse who takes her dog with her, by a good friend.

Tara (Knight) Haney started a new job at the Veterans Health Administration, in Parma, Ohio, as a social worker. She is working in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration program. Tara, and husband Nick, welcomed their first daughter, Maeve, in August 2022. She joined older brothers, Seamus (4) and Declan (3).

Celin Caraballo and fiancée, Kaitlyn, were engaged on December 2, 2023 at Public Square in downtown Cleveland. Celin and Kaitlyn are planning a Las Vegas elopement in April 2024.

Katie (Warner) McCauley, and husband, Ross, welcomed their second child, James Turner McCauley, on November 8, 2023, weighing 8 lbs. and 10 oz.

Please feel free to send updates to the alumni office or to my email address. As well, don't be afraid to call me or reach out on Facebook, X, or LinkedIn.

2014 | Deirdre Byrne

DeirdreByrne@protonmail.com

This column is dedicated to **Alyssa (Giannirakis) Raybuck**, who died on February 2 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Alyssa was a force on John Carroll's campus and lived out the University's mission every day, excelling in academics, service, and the many activities she was involved in. She touched the hearts of everyone with whom she crossed paths. Please keep her friends and family—especially her husband, William, and her younger sister, Marina '16—in your thoughts and prayers.

As we approach ten years since we graduated, here is the latest with some of our classmates.

Jon Smola was promoted from senior certified surgical representative to the director of corporate accounts at CooperSurgical. **Mike Moccia** graduates from the University of Akron School of Law in May, earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence.

Since JCU, **Bill Gutermuth** also graduated from law school and currently works as a senior attorney. He recently married his wife, Joy, and bought a house in Independence, Ohio. They have two poodles and are expecting their first child.

Alex Kline has accomplished both personal and professional milestones. In July, he married Taylor Tercek '16 in

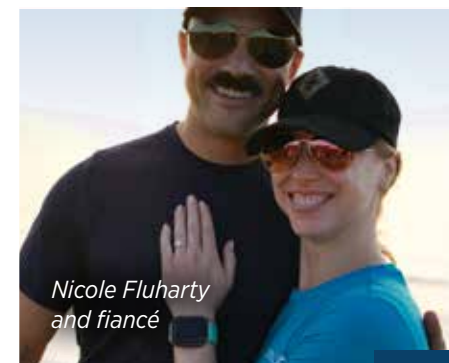


Alyssa (Giannirakis) Raybuck

Solon. He was also recently promoted to director of scouting for the University of Pittsburgh Football Team.

In June, **Kasey Foley** married Meaghan Gade '15G in Washington D.C. The two met during a JCU biology class trip to Costa Rica during spring break in 2014. After they both earned their master's degrees, Kasey and Meagan went on to earn their doctorates: Kasey's in Communication Arts and Sciences from Penn State University and Meaghan's in Environmental and Natural Resources from Ohio State University. They happily live in D.C. and they say they owe it all to JCU. Meaghan works at the Association of Fish & Wildlife and Kasey works at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In 2023, I was happy to travel from Maryland to Ohio on three separate occasions to celebrate Blue Streak weddings. In June, I attended **Dana Kopas's** wedding to Manoli Kalouris in Columbiana. In September, I traveled to Bath to attend the wedding of **Ellen Kriz** and **Adam D'Amore**, a JCU power couple. Their wedding was officiated by **Kaira (Battista) Gramley** and was attended by multiple generations of



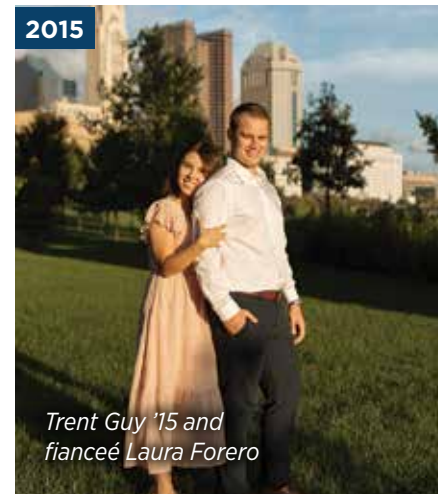
Nicole Fluharty and fiancé

2014



Lauren (Kelley) Patterson and husband Johnnie

2015



Trent Guy '15 and fiancée Laura Forero

JCU alumni. In October, I visited Aurora to attend **Sara Schoonmaker's** wedding to her husband, Matt Sokolich.

Also in October 2023, **Jami (Shanes) Gilliam** married her husband, Brett.

Nicole Fluharty became engaged to her fiancé in December 2023, with a beautiful San Diego sunset as their backdrop. **Greg Scwab** is also engaged and will marry his fiancée in March.

In June 2023, **Chris Elliott** married Emily (Dralle) '16. Then in November 2023, Chris started a new job as the vice president of mergers and acquisitions at America's Auto Auction.

Since the last JCU magazine, **Mike Spettel** has been blocked by Meghan McCain, the former cohost of "The View," on Instagram.

Lisa (Perry) Kovacs was promoted to CEO, Managing Director of Accounts and Revenue of VividFront—a digital marketing agency—in October. She joined VividFront after graduation, and has served in several roles before being named CEO.

Many of our classmates continued to grow their families. In June 2023, **Chelsea (Gerken)** and **Ty McTigue** welcomed their second child, Fiona Therese. Their older daughter, Colette, is so happy to be a big sister.

Lauren (Kelley) Patterson and her husband, Johnnie, welcomed their son, Henry, in October 2023. **Maria (Loya) Desrosiers** and Johnathan Desrosiers '17 welcomed their third daughter, Olivia Kathleen, in January.

Thanks to everyone who sent in class updates. I look forward to seeing you all at our 10-year Reunion on June 7 and June 8!

Please consider donating to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in memory of Alyssa.

With love for JCU,
Deirdre Byrne

2015 | Colleen Reilly Gong

creilly15@jcu.edu

Cheers to another year! Our class continues to celebrate many wonderful accomplishments, new family additions, and milestones. **Haley (Turner)** and Matt Serna ('14) were married in November. **Josh Gdanetz** and wife Rachael welcomed their first child together in November of 2023, Reese Emersyn. **Emily (Grazia)** and **Ryan Devin** and their son Knox will be moving back to Kirtland in August. **Allison (Pschirer)** celebrated her marriage to Cameron Miller ('17). Many Blue Streaks made up their wedding party: Sara Verdi ('17), **Haley (Turner) Serna**, **Tracy Gibson**, **Courtney (Radtkin) Barilec**, Scott Pschirer ('19), and Mario Spies ('17). **Halle (Shanker) Hall** ('15 and '19G) and Chris welcomed their first son in April of 2023, Barrett William Hall. Barrett is a bundle of joy and they have loved their transition to parenthood! In August, Halle also joined the Education Design Lab as Senior Associate, Philanthropic Partnerships. She loves her new role with this DC-based national nonprofit. **Trent Guy** got engaged to Laura Forero. Laura is a Clinical Team Leader at Quantum Health and Trent is currently working in Risk Management at IGS Energy. They both live in Dublin, Ohio, and are thrilled to be tying the knot later this year in October! **Kylie Brooks** and **Zack Zenger** were married on September 16th, with many Blue Streaks in attendance. **Manick Saran** won his fantasy football league's regular season title and playoff championship. Manick's playoff streak included wins over **Alex Barilec**, **Steven Henderson**, and Joe Kleinmann ('16) to secure the top prize. Congrats to Manick for this truly incredible achievement. Stay well and keep the news coming. **AMDG**.

2016 | Madeline Sweeney

madelinegsweeney@gmail.com/msweeney@reddoor.biz

Congratulations to **Emily Dralle** who married Chris Elliott '14 in June, joining the ranks of Carroll Couples.

2017 | Amy Awadalla

amy.awadalla@gmail.com

2018 | Emma Schapp

emmaschapp@gmail.com

Dear Class of 2018,

Celebrate the latest news and achievements of our fellow John Carroll University alumni! From weddings to new arrivals and exciting ventures, our community continues to thrive. Here's a snapshot of recent milestones:

Professional Achievements: **Omie Meza** was featured in "Who Are the 100+ Latinos™ Cleveland Must Know 2023 Cohort" and launched Omie Creative in August 2023. **Colleen Bailey** just celebrated the two-year anniversary of her business, Nutrition Empowered! **Teresa Prinster** matched at Virginia Tech for her OB/GYN residency. **Madison (Cichocki) Riddell** has been promoted to President and Managing Director of Development for VividFront.

Weddings: **Gabby Leon** and Wyatt Woodrell married in May, as well as **Tipton Wooddard** and Alex Bremer ('17), and **Natalia Skrodzki** and Kevin Donohue. **Kara San Lorenzo** and Domenic Camino, and **Leah Calandra** and Trevor Suttie got married in June 2023, followed by **Dana Bartolomeo** and **Alex Bierut** in August. September was a big month of weddings—congrats to **Sarah Rothschild** and **Ryan Crater**, **Catherine Cassidy** and Steve Bachie, **Jake Lombardo** and Ivana Tomic, and **Jack Hyland** and Josie Miller ('17) who all got married that month. **Noelle Saluan** and **Dalton Browsky** also celebrated in September with a wedding after eloping in 2022. **Sydney Brown** and **Conner Witherow** got married in October 2023. Congrats to all!!!

Babies: JCU class of 2041 has entered the chat! **Ryan Brown** and Arielle (Mueller) welcomed baby Meredith Rose in April 2023. **Emily (Burrows)** and Mitch Huber celebrated the birth of their baby Stella Vivian; they also got married this year and Emily got into graduate school for Speech Language Pathology! **Jessie (Thompson)** and **Matt Sasala** welcomed baby Sophia Grace in October 2023.

New Cities: **Maggie Rybak** moved to NYC this summer, while **Julia Mezzoprete** moved to Boston and rediscovered a passion for rowing. **Roserita DiMillo** moved to Chicago, **Kaleigh Wagner** to Denver, and **Nicole Brown** is back in Cleveland!

Engagements: The class of 2018 had a lot of engagements between May–December 2023! Congrats to **Ryan Napoli** and Kailey Holland ('20), **Jimmy Bryne** and **Adrienne Metzger**, **Jamie Mascaro** and Kelsey Yankush, **Zoe Paris** and Trent Yule, **Derek Naim** and Natalie Hill, **Jesse Marinaro** and Madison Tighe, **Laura Matteo** and Nathan Mormino, **Emma Harvey** and Alex Campbell, **Richie Jenkins** and Sarah Foley ('19), **Michalena Mezzopera** and Peter Keares, **Kaylee O'Donnell** and Chad Powell, **Lexi Miller** and **Quinn Aiken**, and **Teresa Prinster** and **RP Whitty**!

Thanks for the help on this issue (special shoutout to **Maggie Rybak** for her FBI level Instagram stalking)—please continue to brag about yourself and your friends! Send me an email (emmaschapp@gmail.com), text, and/or Instagram DM and I will be sure to include it in a future column. As we toast to these milestones, let's celebrate the enduring connections we share as JCU alumni. Cheers to the memories and the exciting journeys that lie ahead!

Best,
Emma

P.S. Katie O'Connell ('19) and I started Brooklyn Euchre Club, bringing our love for the midwestern game to New York City. If you're in the city, come play cards with us!

2019 | Sean Freeman
sfreeman19@jcu.edu

Guys...we've been out of John Carroll for five years now. Woah. There are many things I'm sure we miss about campus life: only having to "work" a few hours each day, walking everywhere, and ready-made (albeit average) food available at all times, to name a few. On the flip side, there are many pros to moving out on our own. We can build the lives we want to live, and that has been the MO of our fellow Blue Streaks over the last few months. Our class is ringing in 2024 with rocks on rocks on rocks. In no particular order, Streaks found their "one" near and far these past few months. Get the tissues ready, you're going to need them for the next few minutes.

Abbey (Bissell) Ackmann was wed to Matthew and honeymooned in Italy last fall. Addio vita da single! **Hannah Singerline** said yes to Justin Miller '17 (graduate school '19) and settled into the Big Apple with more Blue Streaks. After eight years of courtship, **Mollie Zoul** is engaged to Foster King '17, and they celebrated with a Tanzania Christmas.

Erin Hayes said yes to her fiancé Noah, and they will be wed in early summer later this year. **Katelyn Orcutt** dove headfirst into the next phase of life last June, exclaiming "YES!" to Matt, days after closing on their new home together. **Evan Dexter** hardened his spine, stretched a knee, and cracked the ring case for his love Kendall in Georgia last year. They have enjoyed some great hiking together before their big day. **Brooke Baker** started off her 27th year of life with a ring at the beach from Riley and a wedding gown in January! **Maeve McMahon** has found her man to hang out with forever in AJ Mann. After completing the Chicago Marathon this past fall, her next marathon begins. In 2023, **Anna Masica** said yes to Alex, enjoyed a Euro trip with her fiancé and found Gordon, a lovely pupper in Gordon Square. In April of 2023, **Vince Casamento** made the smartest decision of his life and proposed to his girlfriend Kelli. They moved into a lovely home together in Rocky River late last year.

In addition to these Blue Streaks who found their match outside the University Heights confines, other Blue Streaks entered the parthenon of JCU couples. **Sarah Foley** said yes to Richard Jenkins '18 this past November. **Jack Ehrbar** and **Amanda Ferrence** bought a house, and made the house warming even cozier by proposing on the front stoop. **Cole Hartman** and **Haley Ellrich** called "dibs" forever in a beautiful proposal backdropped by the Chagrin Falls. **Bailey**

Fischer said yes to Aaron Geye '18. **Jake Swiatek** dazzled **Clarice Aquila** under the lights of Cleveland's Public Square. The slugger with the 88mph heater and the cheerleader will say "I do" in 2025. For the rest of us taking our time in this big wide world, treat yourself to a ring pop. We all deserve rings in 2024, and they are a lot tastier than diamonds.

Leaping into another of life's great joys, **Allie (Corrigan) Kaminski** brought Emma (JCU Class of 2045) into the world this past November.

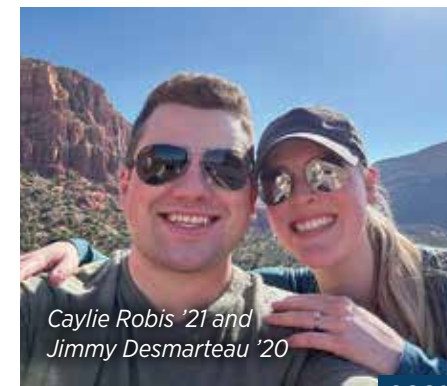
Ben Cypcar had quite the 2023: proposed to Brianna in March, graduated from Creighton's School of Dentistry in May, bought a home with his fiancée in Minnesota in June, and landed his job as an Associate Dentist last August!

After over 25 years mastering English here in the Land, **Matt Nigro** is taking his talents to Amalfi, Positano, and Sorrento beaches, teaching ESL in Italy.

There are many more stories of us pressing onward in life. Whether it's something you'd like to share or if you want to brag about a fellow classmate, please reach out to Sean Freeman for the next edition. Better yet, save your stories for our first ever Reunion (again...woah) this summer! Onward on.

2020 | Kendall Miller
kmiller20@jcu.edu

Happy 2024! I hope everyone has had a happy and healthy start to the new year. **Madeline (Metcalfe) Spettel** shared some amazing news with me, so here's a much deserved spotlight for the incredible work she is doing. "My first year of medical school was very challenging but also opened many doors for me to grow in my career as a future physician. I was inducted into Sigma Sigma Phi (SSP), the Osteopathic Honors Fraternity, in February 2023. Shortly after, I was elected Student Government Association (SGA) President for the Class of 2026 at LECOM Bradenton. While this position holds its own challenges, it allows me the opportunity to work closely with our administration on bettering the environment at LECOM for the student body. I've also been working hard on bringing new opportunities to our students on campus, including



Caylie Robis '21 and Jimmy Desmarteau '20

2021



Paige (Pfeiffer) and Nick Kavalec

hosting more guest speakers and networking events. As SGA President, I am a Florida Delegate for our Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) and had the opportunity to join the delegation in Chicago, Illinois, in July at the AOA House of Delegates Annual Meeting. This was a very unique opportunity to see healthcare legislation and to also be a voice for change in the profession. I discussed and voted on many policies pertinent to the ever-changing field of medicine, including topics on equal access to residency placements for osteopathic medical students and for supporting the recent FDA approval of over-the-counter birth control access. This experience piqued my interest in getting further involved in legislation, as it is so important to be an advocate in the medical profession! I got married June 10, 2023, to Andrew Spettel (JCU Class of 2018) at the Renaissance in Downtown Cleveland. Shortly after, I started my second year of medical school and had the opportunity to travel to Orlando, Florida, for the Osteopathic

Medical Education Conference (OMED) in October. I am currently traveling to Tallahassee, Florida, with my Dean for a conference in the capitol, which I am eager to attend and learn from residents and physicians on Florida medical policy. My experience thus far has been so busy, but it has opened up many opportunities I never knew possible before beginning my education. I hope to continue in the field of medical advocacy and legislation, as it is so important to be up-to-date on the newest legislation in medicine. As I wrap up the beginning of spring semester, I'm gearing up for my board exams (COMLEX Level 1 and USMLE Step 1) that I plan to take this summer." Wishing Maddie the best of luck as she continues on her journey! Please continue to stay in touch and send all of your exciting news my way throughout the year (email me at kmiller20@jcu.edu or message me via Instagram @kendall_millerr). It is my honor to celebrate your successes, and to share them with all of you!

Onward on, Kendall

2021 | Morgan Jochum
mjochum21@jcu.edu

Kaley (Capron) Sticka married husband Travis Stika on November 11, 2023 in the Rodman Hall Chapel! They enjoyed being married in a place that holds such a special place in their hearts.

Samuel Heaton graduated from the University of Iowa Physician Assistant Program in December 2023 and will begin with an Orthopedic Spine group as a PA in March 2024.

Paige (Pfeiffer) Kavalec and Nick Kavalec '20 got married in May of 2022. They have bought their first home. Since graduation, Paige has worked in banking and recently started a new job at Portage Community Bank in Ravenna, Ohio as an Operations Specialist.

Caylie Robis and Jimmy Desmarteau '20 got engaged in Sedona, Arizona in October, 2023. They are getting married in Sedona in September of this year!

2022 | Aideen Keenan
akeenan22@jcu.edu

2023 | Caroline Vahue
cvahue23@jcu.edu



In Memoriam

John Carroll University extends condolences to the families and friends of our recently departed community members. We apologize for any omissions. Death notices through February 15, 2024.



Allan Bennett	1950	8/26/23	Paul Ladouceur	1966G	8/24/23
James Coviello, M.D.	1951	1/19/24	Walter Martens, Jr.	1967	1/7/24
John Brattoli	1951	10/9/23	Joseph Cszasz	1967	1/6/24
Helen Dolan	1952H	08/19/2023	James Kelly	1967	12/19/23
Jerome Miller	1952	1/19/24	Charles Pfeffer	1967	10/18/23
Robert Onufer	1953	10/19/23	Kevin O'Connor	1968	12/22/23
Theodore Gullia, Jr.	1953	9/23/23	Kathleen Norris	1968	10/2/23
Leland Shanle	1954	8/1/23	1984G		
Gerard Donatucci	1955	10/26/23	Sigmund Peck	1968G	11/10/23
Garrett Murray	1955	10/14/23	James Lazor	1969	1/8/24
Raymond Hils	1955	8/2/23	Robert DeSantis	1969	10/26/23
Daniel O'Horo	1956	12/29/23	Michael Benard	1969	9/22/23
John Berg	1956	9/6/23	James Deramo	1970	10/26/23
John Reali	1958	1/2/24	Thomas Zahler	1970	9/25/23
John Benedict	1958	12/23/23	Larry Chojnowski	1971	11/25/23
James Gaertner	1958	9/17/23	James Prohaska	1971	10/28/23
Robert Erzen	1959	1/29/24	Patrick Murphy	1971	9/29/23
Arthur O'Neil	1959	1/27/24	Donald Vondriska, Jr.	1974	12/27/23
George Sorna	1959	12/4/23	Sharon Knotek	1974	9/20/23
Gary Furin	1959	11/30/23	1984G		
C. Patrick Wagner	1960	1/12/24	Gregory Santarelli, Esq.	1976	12/18/23
James Thailing	1960	1/5/24	Robert Rees	1978	11/6/23
David Webster	1960	11/29/23	David Faber, CPA	1978	10/26/23
John Siedlecki	1960	8/26/23	Paul Gellott	1978	9/11/23
John Wittman	1961	12/4/23	Robert Herald	1978	8/24/23
Mary Cooper Kranz	1961G	11/4/23	Michael McLoughlin	1978	8/11/23
Marian Kilbane Flash, Ph.D	1961G	8/20/23	Michael Allison	1979	8/11/23
John Petrus	1962	11/15/23	James Murphy	1981	8/27/23
James DeClerck	1962	11/3/23	Michael Hnat	1982	8/28/23
Neil Kenny	1962G	9/4/23	Mary Grace Gillespie Wagner	1984	9/30/23
John Kunsch	1963	1/21/24	Lawrence Martello	1984G	8/22/23
John Mahoney	1963	12/27/23	Antonio Ripepi, M.D.	1985	12/6/23
John Gleib	1964	1/23/24	Julie Wiedemann Gotsch	1985	10/7/23
William Moroz	1964	1/18/24	Mary Henzel Sloan	1990G	12/1/23
Jerome Grdina	1964	12/23/23	Jeffrey Luca	1993	12/5/23
Philip Dagnon	1964	10/22/23	Laura Bell Affer	1994	9/6/23
Robert Scott	1964	10/7/23	Susan Zidanic	1995	9/24/23
Mary Murphy Schmelzer, Ph.D.	1964G	8/13/23	2000G		
James Brown	1965	12/15/23	Teresa Kutnar	1995G	9/18/23
Joseph Valaitis	1965	8/13/23	Suzanne Brown	2000G	9/30/23
Charles Bartels	1966	12/23/23	Fay Boyer	2007G	12/13/23
			Jamie Einheit	2010	1/17/24

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