

# Touchpoints

ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

July 2020



CEDAR CREST  
COLLEGE

This issue of *Touchpoints* feels a bit different than those we have sent in the past, as the world has changed a lot in the last four months.

In this issue, I was hoping to share photos of proud graduates walking across the stage of the PPL Center to accept their diplomas and stories about long-lost friends reconnecting during Reunion Weekend. Instead, this issue features stories of perseverance, giving back, and making a difference.

During the COVID-19 crisis we saw many challenges, but more importantly, we saw a community come together. Our alumnae served on the front lines of hospitals and nursing homes, our faculty and staff quickly moved an entire semester of plans online as they began working from home, and our generous donors stepped up to ensure the College remains strong in the unpredictable future.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

I can say that now more than I ever, I am proud to be a Falcon, and I thank all of you for everything you have done and continue to do to keep our alma mater moving forward. You make us proud!

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Touchpoints*. As always, please feel free to contact me at [lori.gallagher@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:lori.gallagher@cedarcrest.edu) if you have any questions or story ideas.

All the best,

*Lori A. Gallagher*

Lori A. Gallagher '08  
Director of Alumnae Affairs



## THE NEW NORMAL: CEDAR CREST COLLEGE ADAPTS TO A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

On March 17, 2020, life as we knew it at the College – and around the country – abruptly changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor of Pennsylvania ordered all non-essential businesses to shut down at midnight, which included colleges and universities.

The College's Incident Management Team (IMT) quickly mobilized to provide guidance for our academic departments and administrative offices in response to the evolving crisis. Students were asked to leave campus and continue their studies via online instruction during the campus closure. Meanwhile, faculty and staff pivoted to an online learning environment and maintained essential operations to uphold our mission, all while working remotely.

As it became apparent that this crisis would present long-term challenges, the College was forced to make the difficult decision to cancel important campus events and celebrations, including Commencement, Reunion Weekend, and Mayfair Festival of the Arts. Students completed coursework for the spring semester online, and the College announced that summer courses would continue online. And so began the new normal for Cedar Crest College.

While the sudden challenges presented by the pandemic were great, they were not insurmountable. Students persevered by adapting, finding ways to complete and present research, complete capstone projects, and substitute field experiences and clinicals under unimaginable circumstances. Unfortunately, the College community did not have the opportunity to come together to recognize these accomplishments; however, we celebrated the end of the academic year with virtual awards ceremonies and a special farewell to the Class of 2020.

While we are anxious to be back together on campus, the administration is currently focused on preparing for the challenges we face in the coming months as we adjust, once again, to another version of this new normal. To support these efforts, the Board of Trustees reviewed and discussed possible future scenarios and the relative impact of each on the College's short- and longer-term financial viability.

According to Sylvia Betz Gardner '71, Chair of the Board of Trustees, "What became abundantly clear, regardless of which scenario ultimately emerges, is that we will be living this new normal for some time to come. To navigate the crisis and the accompanying economic downturn, the Board established the COVID-19

Task Force to assist in developing a comprehensive plan to address the uncertain future." She continued, "In addition to developing academic planning for fall, they are tasked with developing plans to strategically contain or reduce costs; examine all of our processes (from top to bottom) to eliminate redundancies and increase efficiencies; assess all possible areas for increased revenue opportunities; and determine where we still need some strategic investment in order to come out on the other side of this in the best possible position."

Cedar Crest College President, Dr. Elizabeth Meade, plans to resume some element of face-to-face instruction on campus in fall 2020. She says, "Working under the guidance of federal, state, and local officials, we are making plans to safely deliver the transformative learning and experiences that are the hallmark of a Cedar Crest education. As a small campus with an average class size of 15, we are already well-positioned to enact many of the required safety measures and respond quickly and confidently as needs evolve."

The College will continue to make decisions that maintain and support its core mission as we work together to keep your alma mater strong.



## A TOAST TO THE CLASS OF 2020

May 9, 2020, was supposed to be a day of coming together—of family, friends, staff and faculty gathered to send off the Class of 2020, the 150th graduating class of Cedar Crest College. However, due to the risks imposed by COVID-19, Cedar Crest College postponed Commencement for the Class of 2020.

While the campus community could not convene in downtown Allentown's PPL Center for the annual celebration, the special day was marked by a virtual celebration. On the morning of May 9, a website was launched filled with stories highlighting the recent triumphs of the graduating class. Stories-like that of Jamie Kahn '20, who accepted a remote copywriting job with WebFX and Allen Zelno '20, a member of the inaugural nurse practitioner cohort, who was chosen to witness a proclamation being signed from the Oval Office in honor of National Nurses Day—prove that the talent, preparedness, and determination of the Class of 2020 will enable them to persevere through unprecedented global challenges.

President Elizabeth Meade echoed this sentiment, writing to students, “While your time at Cedar Crest has ended very differently than it started, your dedication and accomplishments must not be overshadowed. You have reached a milestone in your lives and made an impact on many in our community and beyond our campus. And so as you embark on your next steps in life, know that your solid academic foundation and this community will support you now and into the future.”

In addition to words of support from faculty and administrators, alumnae of Cedar Crest submitted toasts to the Class of 2020, which were compiled into an uplifting video. Wisdom and well-wishes were shared from alumnae across decades and distance, such as the message of Gabrielle Buzgo '11 who said to graduates, “Whenever I talk about Cedar Crest, I refer to her as the foundation upon which I built everything that came after. And although you didn't get a chance to properly say goodbye, remember that you have the same solid foundation as all of the alumnae who have come before you.” The words of Buzgo and many other alumnae remind us that the Cedar Crest community comes together to support its own no matter the challenges we may collectively face.

More stories, videos, and an outpouring of community support can be viewed online at [www.cedarcrest.edu/may9](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/may9). The Class of 2020 will have the opportunity to be recognized with diplomas in hand at the rescheduled Commencement ceremony at a date to be determined.





## REMEMBERING JACK WILSON

On April 6, 2020, Cedar Crest College lost a treasured member of its community. John D. “Jack” Wilson was a renowned businessman and passionate philanthropist who believed in investing in the local community.

Founder and chairman of the company ABEC Inc., an international award-winning biotech manufacturing and services company, Wilson was widely recognized for his innovative work in the biotech industry. Wilson credited much of his success to his late wife, Jean D. Wilson, who was instrumental in the success of his commercial and philanthropic work.

In January 2020, Jack Wilson was recognized for honoring his wife with a gift to Cedar Crest College. Made in the spirit of the positive change Jean Wilson wanted to make in the world, Jack Wilson established The Jack and Jean D. Wilson, Founders of ABEC Inc., Endowed Fund for Health Sciences and Nursing, at Cedar Crest College. To celebrate the life of Jean Wilson as well as the incredible impact this gift would have on aspiring healthcare and health sciences professionals at Cedar Crest, the School of Nursing Lobby was named in Jean's honor.

The space was dedicated in a ceremony held with College faculty, administrators, and the Wilson family on January 14, 2020. “By establishing an endowed fund for Cedar Crest's health sciences and nursing programs, you will provide us with equipment, enable us to make capital improvements, and grant scholarships to aspiring healthcare professionals,” said President Elizabeth M. Meade at the naming reception. She continued, “Already, your gift has had an impact on our School of Nursing and the community this year by providing CPR and Adult ACLS equipment, which not only benefits our academic programs, but will also allow us to host community training sessions that could literally save lives.”

Cedar Crest is immensely grateful to the Wilson family for its support of Cedar Crest College students. The College is proud to honor Jack Wilson's legacy of compassion and entrepreneurialism. His generosity will impact students for years to come.

## SCHOLARSHIP DINNER AND PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATES AWARDS

Cedar Crest College held its annual Scholarship Dinner celebrating the philanthropy of scholarship donors and the achievement of student scholarship recipients on February 19, 2020. The event also honored Gillian Pidcock '04, J. Scott Pidcock, Alvin H. Butz, Inc. and Dr. Marion Kayhart with Associates Awards.

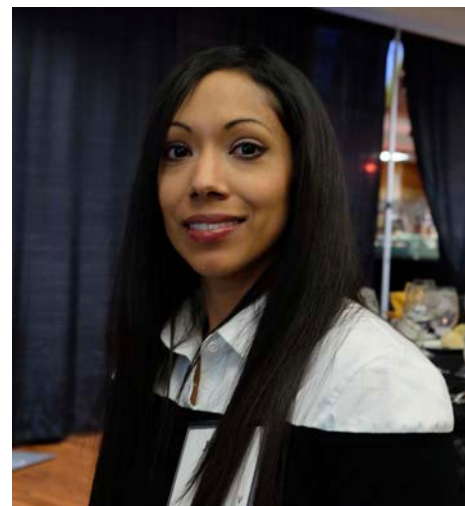
The Associates of Cedar Crest College presented Gillian Pidcock '04 and J. Scott Pidcock and Alvin H. Butz, Inc. with the individual and corporate Associates Awards, respectively. These awards honor individuals or corporations who have made significant contributions to Cedar Crest College; graduates of the College who have achieved success in their chosen fields; or community leaders whose careers reflect the College's mission of promoting women's leadership.

This year, the Associates also presented a new award to Dr. Marion Kayhart. The Award of Gratitude is given to an individual for amazing dedication, time, talent and commitment to the betterment of Cedar Crest College students, academic programs, and the campus.

Featuring scholarship recipients from the traditional women's college as well as the School of Adult and Graduate Education, the event is an opportunity for students to express gratitude to donors while networking with community leaders. Prior to the event, students write thank-you letters to their scholarship donors. Many Cedar Crest students receive financial aid in the form of scholarships, so fostering a culture of philanthropy on campus is crucial to the mission of the College. Nursing student and beneficiary of the Partners

in Nursing Scholarship Fund, Hakeem Sanou '21, expressed to his scholarship donors, "Your earnest investment in my future goals will not be forgotten. I can't wait to become an alumnus of this great institution so that I can give to students in the manner you have shown to me by turning their dream into reality."

The Associates of Cedar Crest College are business, professional and civic leaders from the Greater Lehigh Valley who have demonstrated a continuing interest in the pursuit of excellence in the liberal arts education of women. The group awards student scholarships each year and shares the values, talents and resources of Cedar Crest with the community. Dollars raised through this event go directly to support the Cedar Crest College Associates Scholarship Fund.



# The Charitable Gift Annuity

## SECURE YOUR FUTURE WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you are like many people, you have seen the value of your investments fluctuate with the markets. You might be wondering if there is a way to find true security for you and your loved ones. The good news is that with a charitable gift annuity's fixed payments, you or a loved one can find the peace of mind that you are looking for.

### What is a charitable gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a way to make a gift of support to Cedar Crest College. You make a gift of cash or securities to us. In return, we will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one, or another person. Each payment will be fixed and the amount of each payment will depend on the age of the person who receives the payments. After all payments have been made, we will receive the remaining value of your gift to support Cedar Crest College.

There are a number of benefits with a charitable gift annuity. Your payments are fixed as of the date of your gift. This means that your payments will never change, even if interest rates or the stock market changes. Depending upon your gift, you may receive the added benefit of mostly tax-free payments. You will also receive a charitable deduction in the year that you set up the gift annuity.



If you have questions about charitable gift annuities or other forms of planned giving, visit [www.cedarcrestlegacy.org](http://www.cedarcrestlegacy.org) or contact Michele Moyer, Director of Development for Individual and Planned Giving, at [michele.moyer@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:michele.moyer@cedarcrest.edu).



## SECURE PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

If you are looking for a way to secure your future, a charitable gift annuity may be the answer for you. Not only will your gift help future generations of Cedar Crest students, but you will receive the security of fixed payments for your lifetime backed by our promise to pay. Now is the right time to lock in your payout rate with a gift to fund a charitable gift annuity. To find out how high your payments could be and to learn more about charitable gift annuities, please give us a call.

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.



# DECADE CHALLENGE

## MAY 26-28, 2020



### DECADE CHALLENGE WINNERS

#### Overall - The 1970s

##### 1950s Winners

\$2,195.12 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 1955

Highest Total \$ Raised - 1955

##### 1960s Winners

\$16,248.39 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 1964

Highest Total \$ Raised - 1960

##### 1970s Winners

\$52,001.79 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 1975

Highest Total \$ Raised - 1978

##### 1980s Winners

\$14,484.38 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 1986

Highest Total \$ Raised - 1987

##### 1990s Winners

\$5,339.93 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 1993

Highest Total \$ Raised - 1994

##### 2000s Winners

\$4,075.41 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 2005

Highest Total \$ Raised - 2003

##### 2010s Winners

\$2,711.10 total

Highest % of Class Goal - 2015

Highest Total \$ Raised - 2010

## THREE DAYS. 227 DONORS. OVER \$100,000 RAISED ACROSS DECADES.

The Decade Challenge was held on May 26-28, 2020. Alumnae spanning the decades shared their CCC pride, rallied their classmates, and made generous gifts that will impact the next generation of alumnae – all while enjoying some friendly competition among the classes/decades.

This year's Decade Challenge came at a pivotal time for the College, as we look ahead to what will be a new reality for our students as they continue their educations this fall. Now more than ever, support for the Cedar Crest Fund is vital, as it provides the College and its students with the flexibility to face the challenges ahead.

We are grateful to all those who answered the call. Thanks to you, we proved that we are stronger together.



### 2020 Faculty and Staff Campaign

*February 3, 2020 - March 13, 2020*

## FACULTY AND STAFF CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS PARTICIPATION GOAL

In March 2020, the amazing Cedar Crest community came together and *exceeded* the Faculty and Staff Campaign goal of 83% participation and raised \$41,992.90! This remarkable response speaks volumes about the College's employees' level of commitment to our mission and our students, even when faced with a significant health crisis in our world.



## REINTRODUCING THE GINKGO SOCIETY

Donors who make an annual gift for five consecutive years are inducted into The Ginkgo Society in recognition of their loyalty to Cedar Crest College. Consistent annual giving—regardless of the gift amount—is essential for the College to address the evolving needs of students, programs, and the campus. Donor participation fuels Cedar Crest's culture of philanthropy, and we are proud to recognize those who give back to the College year after year. *Previously, The Ginkgo Society recognized donors who made a gift to the College in five out of seven years. To ensure future inclusion in the Society, donors must make an annual gift for a minimum of five consecutive years.*



## LOOKING BACK ON LONDON: PRESIDENT MEADE REFLECTS

On February 29, a total of 119 students and 18 faculty and staff took flight to London, England for the 2020 Sophomore Expedition. We returned, safely and in good health, a week later to a very different environment than the one we left behind. While the important work of continuing Cedar Crest's mission in a time of crisis continues, I did want to take the opportunity to reflect on the amazing experience had by all.

Students were enrolled for the spring semester in a variety of courses designed specifically for this experience, and while in London, they made real-life connections to their work. Some took a Jack the Ripper walking tour through Whitechapel; toured the Roman wall that surrounded the original city of Londinium; visited the archaeological archive of the Museum of London; took a tour of Westminster, the seat of government and politics in London, including Parliament; visited the Royal College of Nursing and the Florence Nightingale Museum (a fitting site this year, as 2020 is Nightingale's bicentennial); heard lectures on women and science at King's College, and attended a women's soccer team practice – just to name a few!

The service opportunities were extraordinary as well. For me, the time I spent at the Sikh Gurdwara with Allen Richardson's class will remain with me as one of the most profound experiences of my life. The Gurdwara is a combination temple and community center for the Sikh community in that section of London. Every day, 365 days a year, over a thousand people are fed there. Anyone who needs a meal is welcome, regardless of faith and with no questions asked. It is run by volunteers and funded entirely through donations. Our students chopped carrots, rolled and cooked chapatis (unleavened flatbread), scrubbed the largest pots I have ever seen, served food, and shared a meal with this amazing community. Other groups of students served by gathering trash from the canals and walkways along the banks of the Thames by means of kayaks and canoes, spending time with elderly and disabled adults and creating raps with underprivileged children.

Students also experienced London as tourists, with visits to the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben, a ride on the London Eye, a trip to see Wicked in the West End (London's equivalent of Broadway), a day behind the scenes of the Harry Potter movies, and a spectacular dinner cruise on the Thames River.

The combination of service, learning and culture on these trips is extremely powerful. I am so proud that Cedar Crest is able to offer this unparalleled learning experience, and I feel privileged to take part in such a life-changing journey with our students, faculty, and staff. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who made it possible.

*Elizabeth M Meade*

Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade  
President





## CREATING CONNECTIONS AND CAREERS: ALUMNAE PROFILES

### STEPH NOWOTARSKI '06



Being able to pursue passions for both art and science is what makes Cedar Crest a great place to study for many students. One alumna,

Steph Nowotarski '06, has continued to combine these two areas of her life. As both a scientist and an artist, Steph finds

nothing more satisfying than thinking about a problem, experimenting with it, and then communicating it in various ways. This led her to participate in the creation of the art exhibition, “The Art, Biology and Being of Flatworms,” along with three other intergenerational and interdisciplinary artists in Kansas City, MO.

For this exhibit, the artists plunged into the muck of local Kansas City waterways and emerged with an even greater understanding for the complexity found where, at first glance, there appears

to be little to look at. This immersive installation was on display at the UMKC Gallery of Art for the first quarter of 2020. It featured researchers and artists from the Stowers Institute of Medical Research and the Kansas City Art Institute and was designed to celebrate the joy of discovery, inviting visitors to engage with and observe planarian flatworms on micro, macro, and life-size scales.

You can see more photos of the exhibits, watch the video, and learn more about the other artists at [bodyofinquiry.com](http://bodyofinquiry.com).

### KATE WAGNER SZEGDA '70



In March 2020, Kate Wagner Szegda '70, published her debut novel about Spanish Influenza. Her novel, *Pharmacy Girl: The Great War*,

*Spanish Influenza, and the Truth about Billy Detwiler*, is the 2019 Moonbeam

Children's Book Award Silver Medal Winner for Pre-teen Historical/Cultural Fiction. In June, Kate was also the recipient of the National Federation of Press Women's 2020 Second Place Award for Children's Fiction.

The novel is based on family stories, and is the tale of Josie Winslow, twelve-year-old daughter of the town's only pharmacist and how she and her family face the deadly influenza epidemic of 1918.

Kate said her mother, Tiny Barlow Wagner '36, also a Cedar Crest alumna, used to tell her how “she and her sister had Spanish influenza and that there were not enough coffins. I wondered how they survived and thought how memorable the experience must have been since Mother was only four when she had influenza. That led to questions, research, and ultimately, *Pharmacy Girl*.”

More information about the novel is available at [kateszegda.com](http://kateszegda.com).

### SALLY WRIGHT '09



Making a difference for the global community is a hallmark of Cedar Crest College. Even after

graduation, many of our alumnae find ways to engage with people around the globe. One alumna, Sally Wright '09,

did this through her work with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), and Cedar Crest College.

With a grant from the Lehigh Valley Rotary clubs and Rotary International, EWB was able to provide medical textbooks, a conference room for continuing education, and a remote learning capability for the Mattru Hospital staff in Sierra Leone, allowing their staff to work with medical professionals in the Lehigh Valley.

Along with a doctor, Sally worked with LVHN residents and nursing students from the Cedar Crest College School of Nursing to form a partnership with Mattru Hospital. In the new facility, they will be able to share techniques and information.

Earlier this year, Sally took more nursing texts and educational resources to Sierra Leone as she and her team went to the Mattru Hospital to teleconference back to LVHN One City Center with live feeds.



# CEDAR CREST

*stronger together*

## Compassion, resilience, positivity.

From Falcons on the frontlines of the crisis to those helping behind the scenes, this is how the Cedar Crest community responds to the challenges of a global pandemic.

Thank you to the students, alumnae, faculty, and the entire community for making the world a brighter place. For more stories or to share your own, follow Cedar Crest College on social media.



School of Nursing student, **McKenna Hunt** '20, learned to sew and donated 50 masks to frontline healthcare workers.



**Sara Thompson** '12 (L) works for the New York City Parks Department as a mounted Parks Enforcement Patrol Officer. She has been enforcing social distancing in NYC parks from horseback.



**Susan O'Neill** '13, RN and **Professor Sandi Axt** '83, M '12, working in the Trauma Neuro ICU at Lehigh Valley Health Network.



**Kasey Ro** '17, **Jenna Wyncoll** '17, **Brittany Boyer** '16, and **Jill Peoples** M'21 are all working on the frontline at the NSICU at Lehigh Valley Health Network.



Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Nursing Programs, **Dr. Catherine Zurawski**, DNP, CRNP, FNP-C cares for children at her pediatric practice.



**Amber Petchonka** M'19 and **Natalya Receveur** M'20 are working at KidsPeace Children's Psychiatric Hospital, providing art therapy to children. Both are graduates of the art therapy master's degree program.



## **CEDAR CREST WELCOMES DR. ERIKA DAVIS** AS VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Cedar Crest College is pleased to share the appointment of Erika Davis, Ed.D., as Vice President for Enrollment Management, effective May 18, 2020.

Davis most recently served as the Assistant Vice President, MBU Online and Graduate Enrollment at Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, Virginia. In that role Davis was responsible for the development of recruitment strategies for undergraduate and graduate online programs, as well as graduate programs in education, business, and other fields.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Davis to Cedar Crest to lead the enrollment efforts of our Undergraduate Women’s College and the School of Adult and Graduate Education,” said Elizabeth Meade, Ph.D., president of Cedar Crest College. “Her knowledge, experience and the excitement she demonstrated for Cedar Crest’s distinct mission make her well-suited to support the College’s commitment to providing access to an exceptional education with extraordinary experiences for students of all kinds.”

Prior to joining Mary Baldwin University, Davis was the Director of Adult and Graduate Admission at Neumann University, in Aston, Pennsylvania. She has also held leadership and adjunct faculty positions at several institutions in the mid-Atlantic region. Prior to entering higher education, Davis worked in various pharmaceutical sales and management positions at corporations including Merck, AstraZeneca and Sanofi-Aventis.

A native of Pennsylvania, Davis received her B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and her M.A. from Carnegie Mellon University. She earned her Ed.D. from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM ROUNDUP

Cedar Crest takes a forward-thinking approach to develop and add graduate programs of study. Available to both women and men, our advanced degree options address the needs of business and industry and arm students with the skills and knowledge to stand out to those employers. Several graduate degrees are the only programs of their kind in the region, and many are delivered online to fit the busy adult's lifestyle. A growing portfolio of graduate certificates provides opportunities for specialized credentials that can help students take their learning and careers to the next level.

» For details, visit: [cedarcrest.edu/academics/ge.shtm](https://cedarcrest.edu/academics/ge.shtm)

### Master of Science in Integrative Exercise Science

The Master of Science in Integrative Exercise Science is a unique hybrid of both traditional Exercise Science and Clinical Exercise Physiology master's degree programs. The marketable degree provides graduates with a comprehensive exercise science knowledge base, more experiences and a diverse skill set to apply to a professional Exercise Science career.

### Modular Master of Science

Students looking to advance their careers should consider the new and customizable online graduate program, Modular Master of Science (MMS). Learners select two complementary graduate certificates in specific professional areas to complete, in addition to two core courses, and can graduate with a Master of Science in their particular areas of study. The innovative program's first cohort begins class in the fall of 2020.

The customizable program provides working professionals with targeted professional certification choices that are in-demand by employers. This innovative stackable certificate/modular approach may also be attractive to today's busy professional looking for a more convenient, flexible and specialized alternative to a traditional MBA program.

### Master of Science in Crime Science

Cedar Crest College has launched a Master of Science in Crime Science, the first graduate program of its kind in the nation. This ground-breaking master's in Crime Science takes an interdisciplinary approach to crime prevention and detection. It aims to teach practitioners, policymakers and community

activists how to collectively and collaboratively manage resources to effectively prevent criminal behavior or more quickly solve a crime that does occur.

The goal of the program is to create more effective practitioners by teaching skill-centered concepts that can be used professionally. Building on the strength of Cedar Crest's undergraduate programs, the interdisciplinary curriculum combines criminal justice, forensic science and forensic psychology coursework. Course topics include crime mapping technology, program evaluation, crime scene reconstruction and psychology of the criminal mind.

### Occupational Therapy Doctorate

The Lehigh Valley's first entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) is a full-time doctoral program that is completed in 33 months. It aims to develop ethical occupational therapy leaders who are committed to clinical excellence, scientifically informed practice, advocacy for occupational justice and positive social change, and serving the health and occupational needs of diverse populations. The program was recently approved by the Board of Trustees on May 8, 2020 and the first classes are expected to begin in the fall of 2021.

The addition of the OTD program to Cedar Crest's portfolio of Health Sciences programs supports a growing need, both locally and nationally, for professionals in the field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in occupational therapy will increase by 24 percent by 2026. Currently, the Lehigh Valley is the third-largest employer of occupational therapists in Pennsylvania.

## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2020 ALUMNAE AWARDS



Since 1970, the Cedar Crest College Alumnae Association has bestowed the distinguished Alumnae Award on eighty-five alumnae who exemplify the positive contributions that Cedar Crest graduates make throughout their careers, volunteer work, and family life.

Traditionally presented at the all-alumnae luncheon during Reunion Weekend, this award recognizes alumnae who have made an outstanding achievement in one of five categories:

- Service to the College and/or Alumnae Association
- Professional achievement
- Volunteer work
- Humanitarianism
- Single exceptional achievement

This year's committee was chaired by Jane Snyder Garbacz '60 and committee members included vice-chairwoman Sarah Boonie '15, advisor Meg Lewis Schoenemann '78, past award recipients Sandy Reeves Alleman '65 and Gail A. Graham '70, and incoming Alumnae Association board members Deidre Latoof Allen '07, and Tomey'cia "Diamond" Scott '18.

### **DOROTHY STEMPEL GRANNELL, CLASS OF 1963**

Dorothy Stempel Grannell, Class of 1963, has been selected to receive the 2020 Alumnae Award for her humanitarian efforts. Throughout her life Dorothy's guiding philosophical principle has been to be a "catalyst for positive change."

It was while Dorothy took courses in Christian Education at Princeton that she met and married Andy. They both became Quakers, a highly influential factor in Dorothy's lifelong involvement in both education and volunteer endeavors. As the couple moved according to where Andy's work took them, Dorothy always found both employment and ways to contribute to the community. In 1971 while living in South Dartmouth, MA, Dorothy, as an English and history teacher, was awarded the National Award for Leaders in Secondary Education. While living in Worcester, she taught part time at the Lincoln School for Girls in Providence and instituted Civics and American History into the curriculum. Moving to Bangor, ME, Dorothy completed her

Master's of Curriculum and Supervision, while also earning her principal's license. A move to Minneapolis provided more educational leadership opportunities at St. John's Prep, the College of St. Benedict and participation in the Catholic Workers movement in St. Cloud where she also developed the Catholic Peace library. Often, the community where they were living benefited from Dorothy and Andy's co-leadership at the Friends Meetings to which they belonged.

Moving back to Worcester and then Providence, the Greater Worcester United Way benefited from Dorothy's leadership in mentoring programs in the public schools. In 1990, Dorothy's work was recognized with the Leaders in Public Education award, along with the president of Marriott Hotels. Further moves to Indiana saw Dorothy again working to develop partnership programs in literacy and, within the business world, she developed the Partnership Program wherein business leaders worked with college administrators to integrate the needs of business into college courses.

Living in Portland, ME, for the past 20 years, Dorothy's leadership has influenced the United Way, the ME Commission for Community Services, AmeriCorps volunteers and the Friends World Committee. She has been active in Indian Land issues, race issues and immigration. Most recently Dorothy worked with the city of Portland to integrate large numbers of Somalian refugees.

Asked about influential people in her life, Dorothy cited the principal at her first school as a teacher who, by example, taught her how to live as a Quaker professionally. Also, while at Cedar Crest several professors (Dr. Jim Bonar, Dr. Kenny, and Dr. Marion Kayhart) were inspirational, especially Dr. Klopff who was dedicated to the craft of teaching and modeled how to bring out the best in students.

Dorothy believes a liberal arts education is especially relevant in today's world. Women learning and working in collaboration with each other sets a pattern for success after graduation as the world of work and volunteerism is encountered.



*Dorothy Stempl Grannell '63*



*Michelle Lawall-Schmidt '87*

### **MICHELLE LAWALL-SCHMIDT, CLASS OF 1987**

Michelle Lawall-Schmidt, Class of 1987, has been chosen to receive the 2020 Alumnae Award for outstanding professional achievement. It is significant to note that this alumna has a proud family history linked to Cedar Crest College. Michelle's great aunt Mildred Lawall graduated in the 1930s, her aunt Mildred Lawall Phillips graduated in 1953, a niece Marissa Lowell is a 2016 graduate, as is Michelle's sister Marcie Lawall Mulligan, who graduated in 1990.

Michelle is a strong advocate for Cedar Crest, stating that the college is the backbone of strong women in her family. She credits it for giving her not only an education but also the skills she needed for a most successful career in the business world.

After graduation Michelle's entry level job at Pennsylvania Power and Light was as a paralegal. Through hard work and dedication over the course of 30 years, she has risen in the company to Director of Operations, where her management responsibilities are wide-ranging in the

areas of budget, strategic planning and oversight of five district operational departments.

Recognition of Michelle's ability to develop and motivate staff, demonstrate strong project management, and ensure that significant issues impacting the revenue cycle are recognized and addressed appropriately are important aspects of her professional advancement.

Michelle's volunteer commitments throughout the years have included Lehigh County Meals on Wheels, Celtic Cultural Alliance, ArtsQuest and the Allentown Civic Theater. She served on the Paralegal Advisory Committee at Cedar Crest 1987-1997. Recognized for her many career and community accomplishments, Michelle received the Lehigh Valley Women of Influence Award in 2018.

Michelle says that Dr. Luba Holowaty, a Cedar Crest College political science professor, was the most influential person in her life at Cedar Crest. Professor Holowaty encouraged Michelle to leave her comfort zone, becoming a more versatile person, open to taking chances in unfamiliar areas. She says that a Cedar

Crest liberal arts education is relevant today as it provides space to "lean in," exposing students to diversity and inclusion of ideas.

Today, Michelle finds this same ethic professionally in women's resource groups within her corporate environment. The most rewarding aspect of both Michelle's professional career and her volunteer activities has been her experiences working in collaboration with helpful people. She cites PPL as having a constructive culture wherein she has thrived.

*For a list of all past recipients or to nominate someone for next year's Alumnae Award, please visit [www.cedarcrest.edu/alumnaeaward](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/alumnaeaward). If you are interested in serving on this committee in the future, please email [alumnae@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:alumnae@cedarcrest.edu).*



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