

# *Touchpoints*

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

## Progress & Perseverance

Falcons soar to new heights amid the pandemic

[cedarcrest.edu/alumnae](https://cedarcrest.edu/alumnae)



CEDAR CREST  
COLLEGE

# CEDAR CREST COLLEGE DECADE CHALLENGE

MAY 18-20, 2021

**THE CEDAR CREST COLLEGE DECADE CHALLENGE** was held May 18-20. This alumnae fundraising campaign unites classes and decades each year through fun competition and nostalgia. During these three days, alumnae, spanning decades, shared their CCC pride, rallied their classmates and made generous gifts totaling **\$130,236.12** (exceeding our goal of \$125,000)! Gifts to the Decade Challenge support the Cedar Crest Fund,

which is more important than ever as the fund's flexibility ensures the College can respond to the immediate and changing needs of the campus. We are grateful to all our loyal alumnae who participated in this year's Decade Challenge – **thank you!**

## A Bequest of **LIFE INSURANCE** Is Easier Than You Think

A bequest of your life insurance policy is an easy way for you to make a gift to us.

It's as easy as naming Cedar Crest College as beneficiary of all or a portion of your policy on your beneficiary designation form.

Your life insurance proceeds will help further our work, and your estate may benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction for the value of the proceeds paid.

To learn more about making a bequest of life insurance, please call or visit our website at [www.cedarcrestlegacy.org](http://www.cedarcrestlegacy.org).

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For more information, please contact Michele Moyer,  
Director of Development for Individual and Planned Giving at  
[michele.moyer@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:michele.moyer@cedarcrest.edu) or 610-606-4609.



## Dear fellow alumnae,

**AS WE LOOK BACK** over the past academic year, the community has certainly faced a number of challenges, but our students, faculty, staff and alumnae persevered in so many ways. As some COVID-19 restrictions were lifted this



spring, we were able to have alumnae on campus for a modified Reunion. Our students were also able to return to some traditional extracurriculars, such as athletics and theatre performances and continue critical academic activities, including student

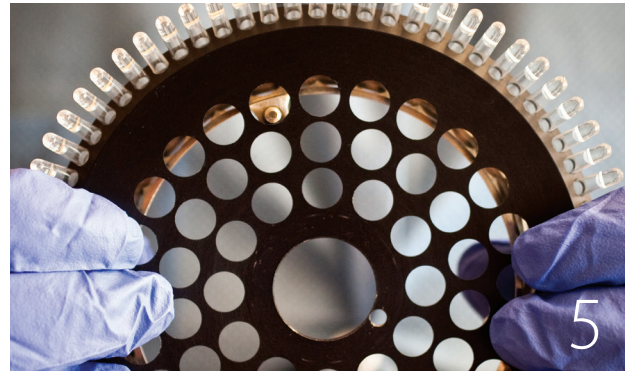
teaching. We have seen our alumnae reaching out to help each other and their communities by taking on leadership roles in various organizations. But, most importantly, we have seen everyone come together to ensure that the experience our students have at Cedar Crest is one that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. We are looking forward to a full return to campus this fall and hope to see many of you on campus for alumnae activities, including Reunion 2022. As always, be sure to follow the Cedar Crest College Alumnae Facebook page for upcoming events and College news.

Wishing you all the best this summer,

*Lori A. Gallagher*

Lori A. Gallagher '08  
Director of Alumnae Affairs

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# Meet Our New Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion

**IN MARCH 2021**, Cedar Crest College welcomed Leon S. John, Jr., Ph.D., as the new executive director of diversity and inclusion. John most recently served as the director of alumni engagement at East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, PA. His professional background includes diversity, equity and inclusion training, Title IX training, academic affairs, residence life,

student life and enrollment services.

Get to know the new member of our Falcon Family:

## **How did your career journey bring you to Cedar Crest and this role in diversity and inclusion?**

I have worked in almost every division of higher education, including enrollment management, residence life, student life, alumni

relations and fundraising and as an adjunct instructor. Throughout my career, I have often been one of few or the only person of color in my office or department. This led me to act as the unofficial counsel for the growing populations of students of color at each of these campuses. Research has shown that students often seek out individuals who look like them because they



## Meet Our New Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion

feel more comfortable confiding in and using those individuals as mentors. Therefore, I got involved with multiple committees on campus that worked with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. This drove me to research how BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) students' success is affected at predominantly white institutions of higher education (PWIs) based on their experiences. As a result, I was involved with various subcommittees as chair and worked very closely with colleagues in diversity and inclusion offices. This all led me to my position here at CCC.

### What excites you most about joining the Cedar Crest community?

Each college or university has a unique campus culture, and CCC is no different. It excites me to work with an institution that is rich with diversity and prides itself in celebrating its students' differences while preparing them to be leaders in their fields upon graduation. I look forward to embedding myself into that culture and learning from those around me while offering my expertise.

### What do diversity, equity and inclusion mean to you?

Growing up in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, I was surrounded by people who looked like me and who made up the majority of the population. Having moved to the United States at 17, I have been able to adjust to the vast difference of not seeing or interacting with as many people who look like

me. However, no matter where we are and what our goals are, we all strive for the same thing and that is to be treated equally and with respect. I am no different in my goal for happiness than my colleagues or the students on campus. We may not look the same or have the same upbringings, but we all have the

“My goal is to create a truly equitable and educational program that will serve the needs of CCC’s students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni.”

— Leon S. John, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion

same goal. Being open to everyone's differences, cultures, identities and beliefs can open doors to a bigger world and will make it easier for us all to achieve happiness.

### What do you hope to accomplish at Cedar Crest? What first steps will you be taking to meet some of these goals?

I hope to listen to the needs of the students and build the program out

from there. I also plan to build upon the momentum that has already been established by my predecessor. My goal is to create a truly equitable and educational program that will serve the needs of CCC's students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni. To get there, I need to be involved with all the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives already happening on campus, break down any silos that exist and bring all the work together to create a plan that will reflect several pillars for the community to work toward.

### Any fun facts you can share about hobbies/interests/family?

I feel like my entire life is one fun fact—born in Queens, NY, growing up in the Caribbean, moving to Northeastern Pennsylvania and all the in-betweens that led to me being here. I also teach a film class at Penn State Scranton because I love movies. I am a comic book fan (and everything associated with that), and I love to use my spare time building with LEGO bricks and playing video games. I also love to read. I have a 14-year-old son who keeps me grounded and up to speed with the different trends, making fun of me along the way. My wife is my rock and foundation and continues to push me to my limits and then some to achieve more. Finally, I have two dogs, a miniature pinscher and a miniature pinscher/chihuahua mix, and they contribute to the life of my household.

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Learn more about Dr. John at [cedarcrest.edu/news/drjohn](https://cedarcrest.edu/news/drjohn).

# Collaboration, Cooperation & Support: New Partnership Aims to Improve Policing in Our Community

**THIS SPRING**, Cedar Crest College announced a new collaborative partnership between the College, the City of Allentown and the Allentown Police Department. The partnership, which builds on a national movement to recognize the benefits of data-driven, research-based outcomes related to the practice of policing in our communities, will include the creation of the Center for Police Innovation and Community Engagement in Allentown.

Scott Hoke, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice and director of the Master of Science in Crime Science program, and Kerrie Baker, Ph.D., professor of psychology, secured funding to create the Center and support three years worth of work.

The Center aims to evaluate and support police practices in four areas: police strategy and practice; community outreach; police organization; and the transferability of nationally recognized police interventions. Through data sharing and the development of progressive measurement strategies, the College and city are attempting to implement practices that enhance the quality of life for city residents.

“Using our aligned missions and motivated by the current trends in service to the community and in higher education, an opportunity exists to address a national imperative that



stresses the importance of collaboration, cooperation and support,” says President Elizabeth M. Meade, Ph.D.

As part of this partnership, the city and police department will work with Cedar Crest College researchers to create a priority list of projects and initiatives from which the assessment work will be selected.

The College is committing student internship resources to the police department to assist in developing more detailed crime analysis services—creating the opportunity for Cedar Crest students to gain valuable practical experience and go on to become strong and confident leaders in their chosen fields.

A ceremonial signing event took place at Cedar Crest College on March 24.

**PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY** was Madison Schettig '21, a criminal justice major who was hired by the Allentown Police Department eight months before her May graduation to work as a public safety analyst. “If you asked me a year ago, I would have told you this is my dream job,” she says. Applying the skills she learned in the criminal justice program, Schettig analyzes data and helps the Department identify crime trends.

Visit [cedarcrest.edu/madison](https://cedarcrest.edu/madison) to read more of Schettig's story.



# From the Classroom to the Crime Scene: Cedar Crest Hosts Annual Forensic Science Symposium

**AFTER THE 18TH ANNUAL** Forensic Science Symposium was postponed in March of 2020, Cedar Crest College hosted two virtual symposiums this academic year. Since 2002, Cedar Crest forensic science students have organized and led the annual symposium, which features presentations by regional and national experts, as well as Cedar Crest alumnae.

At this spring's symposium, a lineup of speakers discussed cases in genealogical testing, DNA analysis and forensic investigation. One presenter was familiar to many true crime fans—retired forensic science investigator Paul Holes, known for his part in solving the infamous Golden State Killer case.



**Paul Holes**

The free event is open to anyone interested in forensic science and provides an opportunity for high school students to learn more about the College's forensic science program. Cedar Crest is one of the top colleges for the study of forensic science and offers one of the few fully accredited programs in the nation.

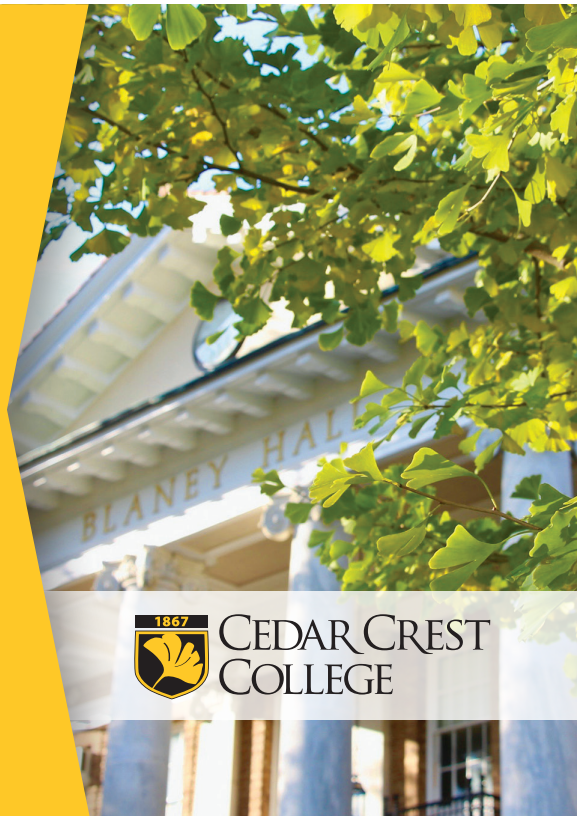
To learn more about forensic science at Cedar Crest College, visit [cedarcrest.edu/forensicscience](http://cedarcrest.edu/forensicscience).

## *Caring for the Crest* Monthly Giving Program

The **Caring for the Crest Monthly Giving Program** is a special network of faithful alumnae, parents and friends of Cedar Crest College who provide critically important and reliable support for current students.

Monthly gifts provide Cedar Crest College with a steady stream of support throughout the year. As a member of the **Caring for the Crest Monthly Giving Program**, you are providing our students — and the entire campus community — with valuable resources that support essential activities and programs.

Sign up online at [www.cedarcrest.edu/Caring4CCC](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/Caring4CCC)



**CEDAR CREST  
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Cedar Crest students and actors from the community perform in the spring musical, "FAME."



PHOTO/AMICO STUDIOS

## The Show Did Go On: Spring Performing Arts Highlights

### THE CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

Performing Arts Department spent the summer of 2020 strategizing and adjusting plans for a performing arts season during a pandemic. Department faculty and staff met weekly throughout the year to discuss upcoming productions and how the ever-changing state of the pandemic would affect live performances.

“Our main goal was to make sure students at the College still had

performance opportunities either onstage or backstage. Most college programs and professional theatre groups gave up early and canceled their whole season, but at Cedar Crest, we persisted,” says Roxanne Amico, MFA, chair of performing arts.

With limited indoor theatre capacity, the department prepared to perform with no live audiences in the space—instead, they turned the focus to livestreaming. To get ready,

faculty and staff learned livestreaming logistics, taught students camera techniques and purchased necessary equipment. Kevin Gallagher, MFA, associate professor and technical director, led trainings, while faculty and students honed their skills throughout the year.

Following a successful run of productions in fall 2020, the Performing Arts Department needed to find a spring musical with rights available for



livestreaming. Performing arts students weighed in and selected the 1989 musical, “FAME.” “FAME” chronicles the triumphs and hardships of a group of students attending New York City’s High School of Performing Arts from their first year to graduation. Directed by Bill Mutimer with Brian Foley as music director, the production ran February 25-28 with no audience in attendance. The cast performed on stage with face coverings and socially-distanced blocking. Audiences tuned in to watch the musical from viewing rooms across campus.

The season ended with “Spring Dances” and “FACTOR,” both focused on social justice themes. The spring dance showcase, “Spring Dances: We Rise and Fall Together,”

was pre-filmed and features five different genres of dance exploring “the interconnected nature of society, plus promoting awareness that working against the oppression of any one group will ultimately benefit the whole,” says Sarah Carlson, artistic director and assistant professor of dance. On April 17, the showcase premiered on YouTube and was streamed to a limited live audience in Samuels Theatre. The event ended with an open discussion with the show’s choreographers.



The season continued its exploration of race, inclusion and equity with an original collaborative work, “FACTOR.” Created over the course of a year, “FACTOR” is a mixed-media work that uses spoken

word, dance and visual imagery to reveal the triumphs, missteps and ongoing transformation of inclusion and equity at Cedar Crest. The performance featured faculty, staff, alumnae and current students. The original show premiered on April 24 to a live audience in Samuels Theatre and via YouTube for audiences at home.

“Throughout the entire year, we held weekly meetings, implemented COVID mitigation efforts and creatively adapted to challenges to produce a great season that no one will ever forget,” concludes Amico.

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For more information about performing arts at Cedar Crest, visit [cedarcrest.edu/stage](https://cedarcrest.edu/stage).



## Admissions Updates: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward with Dr. Erika Davis

In May 2020, Cedar Crest welcomed a new vice president of enrollment management, Erika Davis, Ed.D. Joining Cedar Crest from Mary Baldwin University, Davis has experience with women’s colleges and HBCUs as well as traditional, online, adult and graduate enrollment. Now a year into her new role, she reflects on her time at Cedar Crest and shares upcoming enrollment initiatives.


Davis shares that, in the past year, admissions met budget goals and grew graduate enrollment thanks, in part, to the College’s expanding portfolio of graduate programs. The admissions office also welcomed new team members, including a new traditional admissions staff and

a new graduate admissions advisor. In February, Deborah Accurso, MA, was named director of enrollment management, overseeing traditional undergraduate, graduate and adult admissions, after serving as director of admissions in the School of Adult and Graduate Education.

New initiatives from the past year include an articulation agreement with Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) that facilitates the transfer of LCCC students into Cedar Crest’s School of Nursing and the launch of a Campus Life Exploration Series for prospective and incoming Falcons. Work has begun on a new enrollment marketing campaign and, this summer, the College hosted the first-ever Graduate Summit—providing an opportunity for Cedar Crest’s graduate program coordinators to plan how they can best increase and improve services for graduate students.

“I love that the faculty and staff are committed to going above and beyond to support our students through the admissions process and their college journey,” Davis says.

Davis, who joined the College amid the pandemic and a decreased presence of employees on campus, is looking forward to hosting more on-campus events and making in-person connections with faculty, staff and alumnae.





# A Home for the New Occupational Therapy Doctorate

**CEDAR CREST COLLEGE** will welcome its first class of Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) students in August 2021. The full-time program can be completed in 33 months and is the first entry-level OTD program in the Lehigh Valley, the third largest region of

occupational therapists in Pennsylvania. The College's introduction of an OTD program supports a growing need, both locally and nationally, for professionals in the field.

The program is housed in the Hamilton Boulevard Building and

will utilize several newly renovated spaces including a state-of-the-art technology lab, the Occupational Therapy Life Skills Lab, the Pediatric Lab, an updated lobby area and graduate student lounge.

"The newly renovated spaces at



The College's introduction of an OTD program supports a growing need, both locally and nationally, for professionals in the field.

Cedar Crest College add the elements to make the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program top-notch in educational capabilities, technology, community engagement and simulated experiences for experiential learning," says Aimee Ketchum, OTD, OTR/L, CNMI, assistant professor of occupational therapy and academic fieldwork coordinator.

The new spaces were completed in March 2021 and will benefit both Cedar Crest students and community members. In the labs, students will participate in simulations of real-life clinical experiences and can practice therapeutic interventions, evaluations and assessments with paid patient actors. Students can use the spaces to conduct research as they complete their capstone projects. The program also has plans to offer occupational therapy clinics for the community.

The Life Skills Lab features a fully functioning kitchen, bathroom and living space for simulated therapeutic experiences, as well as a clinical space for orthotic labs, splint fabrication and practice of essential clinical skills.

Designed as both a learning environment for OTD students and a future pediatric clinic for underserved communities in the Lehigh Valley area, the Pediatric Lab is a full sensory gym that mimics an outdoor park. The space boasts an interactive wall



mural, swings to facilitate vestibular activities, a ball pit, scooters and a horizontal rock-climbing wall to enhance children's motor development, plus an audio-visual system to allow students to view treatments from another location.

"Our goal is to develop ethical occupational therapy leaders who are committed to clinical excellence, scientifically-informed practice, positive social change and advocacy for occupational justice, while also serving the health and occupational needs of diverse populations," says Ketchum.

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Learn more about the Occupational Therapy Doctorate at [cedarcrest.edu/otd](http://cedarcrest.edu/otd).



*Occupational therapy students will get hands-on experience in the newly renovated Life Skills Lab.*

### OTD Fundraising

Cedar Crest is excited to share that the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program has received strong support from three long-term community partners. The Arcadia Foundation, Keystone Savings Foundation and Harry C. Trexler Trust have awarded the College a combined \$110,000 to purchase essential educational equipment, ensuring that the inaugural OTD class will be trained using state-of-the-art equipment.



**AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** drastically altered the education landscape, many teachers transitioned their classrooms to and from remote, hybrid and in-person models. Students of all ages have had to adapt to new methods of instruction and face the unique challenges of pandemic learning. This academic year, Cedar Crest also adjusted instruction, offering classes in a dual-delivery model with online, hybrid and fully face-to-face options.

In the fall, we heard from alumna Lauren Hetrick '08 about the changes and challenges she was experiencing as a high school social studies teacher.

Now, two Cedar Crest education students share how they rose to the challenge of student teaching in a pandemic and gained valuable experience during this extraordinary time for educators.

### Rebecca Pisko '21 ▶

With an undergraduate degree in communications and marketing, Rebecca Pisko held an editorial job for four years until she decided to make a career change. "I love to write, but it just wasn't fulfilling and what I was passionate about," she says.

"Education always was." Pisko found her path at Cedar Crest, graduating in May with her Master of Education and certification in early childhood education.

This past year, Pisko served as a student teacher at Jefferson Elementary



School in the Allentown School District. She supported a class of 24 fourth-grade students as they navigated synchronous, online learning.

Starting in March 2020, the Cedar Crest education department modified lessons to prepare future teachers for both regular and virtual education models. “They’ve done a great job of adapting to the situation,” explains Pisko. “We were learning how to teach under these unusual circumstances while keeping in mind that someday we’ll be back to normal in the classroom.”

Throughout her student teaching experience, Pisko encountered many of the obstacles brought on by remote education. In a virtual environment, for example, it can be harder for educators to build the trust and understanding needed for a successful teacher-student relationship. It is easier to get to know students and their learning styles with face-to-face instruction in the classroom, Pisko explains. It was also challenging to foster student-to-student relationships, and Pisko’s students were at an important age to learn how to build friendships.

Pisko believes that she is a more well-rounded educator due to her pandemic student teaching experience. “I find myself constantly trying to figure out new ways to go about teaching things, whether it be finding new resources or making my own,” she says. “There’s a lot of pivoting with online learning, and you’re always trying to build and better what you’re already doing. I feel like I’m a better teacher because of it.”

Pisko’s advice for future student teachers is to be flexible and open to learning. “This is a unique experience where you’re constantly getting feedback on your work and growing

and improving as a teacher. Be flexible, take it one day at a time and if things go wrong, that’s okay—it’s all part of the process,” she concludes.



### Savannah Jarjous '21 ▲

Early childhood education major Savannah Jarjous completed her student teaching experience this spring at the Jackson Early Childhood Center, a building exclusive to kindergarten instruction in the Allentown School District. Jarjous came to Cedar Crest as a transfer student and was “a little bit behind,” she says. “But I was able to catch up and graduate on time. It was hard work, but Cedar Crest helped me make it happen.”

Her classroom at the Jackson Early Childhood Center was completely online, but the students’ days involved a mix of live instruction and logging off to complete schoolwork. Jarjous was able to navigate the challenges that came along with this model, thanks to Cedar Crest’s experienced education department faculty members. Professors use their real-life experiences to teach students how to adapt to new circumstances

and handle challenges as they come their way. “Hearing about their experiences, their struggles, their reactions and their solutions helped me learn how to handle these situations myself,” Jarjous says.

Remote learning has been a major adjustment for schools across the country, leading to numerous challenges for both educators and students. For Jarjous, keeping students focused and engaged throughout the day was one of these challenges. The melding of home and learning environments has made it much harder for students to stay focused, and educators are constantly trying new ways to keep the students engaged in a virtual setting. “Getting the students to sit down, focus and stare at a computer screen for hours of the day when they’re at home is difficult,” explains Jarjous. “At home, they’re used to playing with their toys and watching TV, not being focused and in school mode.”

Virtual student teaching has taught Jarjous how to be more flexible and creative. The first three years of her teacher education prepared her for face-to-face instruction in the classroom. Now, the pandemic has shown her how to take everything she has learned and adapt it to be just as effective in a virtual environment. “Through this experience, I’ve grown and built my confidence as a teacher,” she adds.

Since graduating in May, Jarjous has been a full-time substitute at the Jackson Early Childhood Center, teaching a hybrid kindergarten class. Over the summer, she will be starting a new position as a fourth-grade teacher at Newcomer Academy, a school that supports students who are new arrivals to the United States and need English language support.



# Alumnae Affairs



## Reunion Recap

**REUNION WAS HELD** on May 21, 22 and 23, 2021, and while it looked a little different this year, the Office of Institutional Advancement was happy to host several virtual and on-campus events for our alumnae. The weekend honored all classes ending in 0s and 5s (who could not join us for Reunion last year) and 1s and 6s. As always, alumnae from all classes were encouraged to attend. Alumnae in attendance represented classes from 1956-2019, coming from as far away as Florida to celebrate on campus. We also had alumnae join online from Texas and Illinois.

Virtual events included Back to School sessions with Scott Hoke, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice, Karen Bensinger, DNP, assistant professor of nursing and Amy Faivre, Ph.D., professor of biology; a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presentation by Atyia Martin, Ph.D., CEO and Founder of All Aces, Inc.; an interactive murder mystery performance by Without a Cue Productions and Bingo. On Saturday morning, over 60 alumnae came to campus for several in-person events, including the Alumnae Association's Annual Meeting, a presentation of the Reunion Giving Awards, President Meade's State of the College Address, the traditional All-Alumnae Luncheon with a presentation from Tammy Bean, M.Ed., and the Strawberry Festival. Reunion continues to be an important tradition at Cedar Crest, as it unites classmates and fosters new friendships. We look forward to future alumnae events, both in-person and virtual, in the coming year.

## Cedar Crest Gets Creative

**ONE OF THE STRENGTHS** of a Cedar Crest education is that students can pursue their passions in various areas of study, both in their major and as extracurricular activities. As a result, many Cedar Crest graduates, from all departments, have taken on creative projects as professionals or hobbyists.

Recognizing the number of Cedar Crest community members that have creative projects to show and the need for a more personal connection during a time of social distancing, the Office of Institutional Advancement decided to host an online art show for alumnae, faculty, staff, students and trustees in early 2021.

Artists were invited to submit examples of their work in visual, literary and performing arts. As a result, 39 individuals submitted more than 90 pieces, ranging from watercolors and acrylics to poems and musical productions.

The creative projects were originally unveiled during a virtual gallery opening on April 7, 2021, with a keynote by Barbara Tebbs Briden '59, who spoke about the importance of art and its impact on her life. Briden has stayed connected to Cedar Crest through Reunions and by serving as the former president of the regional Jersey Alumnae Club; however, one of her most notable contributions to Cedar Crest has been her regular participation in past alumnae art shows.

While at Cedar Crest, Briden studied elementary education and participated in the concert choir, song contest and the President's Advisory Council. After

## Alumnae Affairs

graduation, Briden worked as a preschool teacher, a secretary and eventually retired from a position at AT&T as a quality consultant and supervisor.

Outside of working her nine-to-five job, Briden had a passion for art that she actively pursued after retirement. Since then, she has created various collections, including watercolors, pastels and acrylics from realistic landscapes to colorful abstracts that have been displayed in numerous galleries. Briden's passion for the arts was inspired by her great-grandmother, whose watercolor sketchbooks from the mid-1800s have graced her family's walls for decades.

In 2002, Briden won two awards for her work and was published in Victoria Magazine for her paintings related to a two-week trip to Paris.

Following Briden's presentation, attendees of the virtual opening watched a preview of each piece. The gallery is now open for community viewing at [www.cedarcrest.edu/artshow2021](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/artshow2021). There you can also find information about submitting your own pieces for next year's collection.

In addition to viewing the gallery, visitors also had a chance to vote on their favorite pieces. Proceeds from voting went to provide budget relief support to the arts at Cedar Crest. The pieces with the most votes are featured here.

The next virtual gallery will open in April 2022, and all Cedar Crest community members are invited to submit their work.



*Pictured, clockwise from top left:*

### First Place

**Wave I (Watercolor) by Karen Mattson Pinard '71**

### Second Place

**Cherokee Wheels (Reed) by Robin Spaeth Ingram '74**

### Third Place

**Surrounded by Love (Photography) by Jennifer Adamson Horn '00**  
**Symbiosis? (Photography) by Meg Lewis Schoenemann '78**

*Not pictured:*

### Runners Up

Foreboding (Archival Print) by Richard Begbie '85  
Tulip Bowl (Clay Handbuilt) by Derry Bockner Crosley '69  
Unity Starts Simple (Acrylic) by Justina Neff '21  
Oil on Linen by Judith Weight Fritchman '61  
Best Listener. Biggest Heart. Best Friend. (Oil on Canvas) by Emily Graf  
St. Remy Rain (Photography) by Sue Ingram Keller '75  
Charlayne (Oil on Board) by Martha Moore Meskauskas '66  
Calm vs. Fear: The Abyss (Alcohol Ink) by Christina Steigerwalt  
Around the Town 2020 (Photography) by Robi Shalotsky Ludwig '87  
Feed the Birds (Photography) by Meg Lewis Schoenemann '78  
Gotta Let Go (Official Video) by Dakotah '06

# Alumnae in Action



**MARY LOU DUNZIK-GOUGAR '87**, Ph.D., was named president of the American Nuclear Society for 2020-2021. She is the associate dean of the Idaho State University (ISU) College

of Science and Engineering, associate professor of nuclear engineering and a senior reactor operator at ISU's Aerojet-General Nucleonics nuclear reactor. She coordinates the nuclear engineering curriculum and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses at ISU. She also performs nuclear materials research and is involved in regional and discipline accreditations, ISU's international program development and reactor administration.



**JENNI COTIGNOLA CLARK '93**, M.Ed., is the founder and current CEO of StarThrower Group, Inc., an organization that helps young adults with special needs develop life, job and social skills. The group

was established to address the gap in services for those with special needs after high school graduation and support these individuals as they transition from high school to adulthood. The organization reaches out to these young adults to provide support and opportunities while building community and friendships. The StarThrower Group facility provides a space for learning, a place to connect and a place to feel safe and welcome. Also involved in the organization are Tina Ball Livezey '93, board president, and Linda Bahner '93, board secretary.



In May, **ANTA CISSÉ-GREEN '95**, LL.M., J.D., was appointed as the State University of New York's (SUNY) senior vice chancellor for legal affairs and general counsel, making her the first female

African American to hold this role in SUNY history. Prior to this appointment, Anta was the associate general counsel and director of legal operations at NYU Langone Health. Cissé-Green is also the president of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, an organization dedicated to "helping its members accomplish their personal and professional goals, while simultaneously addressing the legal issues that impact our Black communities."



**KRISTINA KRIVIC '19**, RN, has been crowned International United Miss Monmouth County, New Jersey and will represent New Jersey at the international pageant in July. Krivic was diagnosed

with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) at 17 and has since been an advocate for chronic/invisible illnesses awareness. She works with the National PCOS Awareness Association and the PCOS Challenge — achieving top fundraiser two years in a row for their 5K Awareness Walks. Last March, Krivic traveled to Washington, D.C., as a constituent of the tri-state area to share her story with congressional members, seek their support in making September PCOS Awareness Month and request more funding from the National Institutes of Health to spread awareness of PCOS.





**Ivonne Miranda, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of education, is a recipient of an AAUW Community Action Grant for \$9,212 for the 2021-2022 award year. She will be collaborating with the Allentown School District to provide early STEM exposure to fifth-grade girls from diverse backgrounds. STEM activities will be based on male-dominated STEM fields such as physics, engineering, computer science and more. Fifth-grade girls will have the opportunity to have a year of innovative hands-on experiences to explore authentic problems and make meaningful contributions in STEM fields.



In May, **Micah Sadigh, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology, released his 8th commercially released musical composition, "A Distant Star." The composition consists of seven movements and symbolizes hope in the darkened skies. The piece was written between 2017 and 2019 and was recorded in early January of this year. The last movement, "orbiting hope," is a prelude to the next piece — to be composed in the future. All proceeds from this composition will go toward educational scholarships.



**Calley Stevens Taylor, Ph.D.**, dean of student success, has been selected as a co-editor for "Academic Advising Administration: Essential Knowledge & Skills," 2nd Edition. The first edition of Academic Advising Administration was intended for new and veteran advising administrators and meant to appeal to those interested in building outstanding advising units to serve the mission of their colleges and universities. Key questions addressed in the first edition: What do we wish we had known when first hired as administrators? What do we need to know to lead our offices into the next century? This updated edition, slated for publication in 2023, looks to build upon, expand and update the information from the first edition.



**Alison Wellford, MFA**, associate professor and Pan-European MFA program director, published the article "How Antidiscrimination Law Fails Black Mothers" in *The Nation*. She notes that "Title VII's short period for filing a complaint harms one of the very populations the law is meant to protect: pregnant or nursing mothers — especially mothers of color." Read Wellford's article here: <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/sexual-harassment-reporting-title-vii/>

# Falcons Leave the Nest

Read more about the Class of 2021 at [cedarcrest.edu/classof2021](http://cedarcrest.edu/classof2021)



Social work student **Jonique Pace '21** completed her 450-hour field experience with Northampton County Children, Youth and Families and was offered a full-time position to begin after graduation. Pace will serve as a caseworker in the organization's permanency unit. A personal connection inspired her to pursue this path of social work. "I had a caseworker growing up and aspired to be like her and help children in need," Pace explains. "I am super excited to start this new journey."



Four years before enrolling at Cedar Crest, **Elizabeth Oleksa '21** became completely blind due to complications of diabetes. As an adult student learning to navigate a new disability, Oleksa was overwhelmed and anxious beginning this next step in her educational journey. However, with her seeing eye guide dog, Bryce Krispie, at her side, she persevered through any challenges that came her way and flourished both personally and academically. Now, Oleksa will be attending Rosemont College to earn her master's degree in counseling.



For **Asher Atwood '21**, nursing runs in the family. Completing her BSN, Atwood is following in the footsteps of her mother and both her grandmothers who have all worked as nurses. Atwood held leadership roles across campus, including serving as a student ambassador in the admissions office, a First Year Experience Mentor and co-founder and president of CCC Signs, Cedar Crest's first sign language club. Now, she is a graduate nurse at Lehigh Valley Health Network- Cedar Crest on a medical-surgical floor.



## Commencement 2021

Cedar Crest College held its 151st Commencement exercises as two ceremonies over two days at the PPL Center in downtown Allentown, PA. On Friday, May 14 at 6 p.m., the College honored all School of Nursing graduates and all other graduate students. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences graduates were honored on Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of Society for Science and publisher of its award-winning magazine, "Science News," delivered the keynote address and was awarded an honorary degree. Cedar Crest was delighted to welcome many of our graduates' families and friends to celebrate the Class of 2021 in person. Both days of the ceremony were also livestreamed for those not in attendance.



# ATHLETICS RETURNS WITH RECORD- BREAKING SEASON

**TO THE DELIGHT OF FALCON ATHLETES AND FANS**, the Board of Directors of the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) approved its member colleges to move forward with a competitive season, including conference championships for all spring sports with appropriate safety measures in place at each institution.

For Cedar Crest, this meant the return of softball, tennis, lacrosse and track and field. Measures were put into place to ensure the safety of all in attendance, including limited spectators, COVID-19 testing of athletes throughout the season, temperature checks for all guests on game day and restricted interaction between players and fans. All games were livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Throughout the season, the Falcons soared with championships and awards in various sports. Most notably, the softball team traveled to Seguin, TX, for the NCAA Division III Regionals, their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. The softball program closed its historic season, going 21-5 overall and earning their first CSAC Championship and NCAA Tournament wins in school history. Additionally, the softball team had 11 student-athletes take home 12 CSAC End of Season Awards, including the CSAC Player of the Year.

For track and field, the squad placed first out of five at their inaugural meet at the Keystone Invite at Keystone College, participated in their first-ever CSAC Championship Meet and took home 12 End of Season Awards, including CSAC Coach of the Year and the CSAC 3D Award. The Cedar Crest College tennis squad also advanced to back-to-back CSAC Championship matches. The year concluded for the Falcons with 16 athletes inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society.



PHOTOS/ONE MORE SHOT PHOTOGRAPHY







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## Save the Date for Reunion 2022!

Join us for a combination of virtual and in-person events,  
as circumstances allow.

**Friday, May 20, 2022 – Sunday, May 22, 2022**

Visit [www.cedarcrest.edu/reunion](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/reunion) in January 2022 for  
a list of events, hotel room blocks and other Reunion  
information. Registration will open online on March 1,  
2022. A printed registration form will be included in the  
Spring 2022 issue of Class Notes.

Reunion 2022 will honor all classes ending in 2s and 7s,  
but all alumnae and their families are invited to come  
home for this special weekend. Events will include  
Strawberry Festival, President Meade's State of the  
College Address, the All-Alumnae Luncheon and Awards  
Ceremony, a dance party, buffet dinners, happy hours,  
social gatherings and much more.



# REUNION

2022

