

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



BIG Questions

2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT



BIG QUESTIONS

By President John Garvey

My favorite project of all time is a book I wrote entitled *What Are Freedoms For?* (Harvard University Press, 1996). It was an answer to a question I had struggled with for years. That's how good research usually begins — with a really good question. It happens when we come across something that doesn't sit right; it sparks our curiosity, and we start digging around in an effort to understand. I found myself wondering whether freedom is merely a right to make choices, or whether there was something else going on. The answers I read never satisfied me, so I worked them out in my book. I think I came up with a good answer. You can read it and let me know.

The same thing happened to Johannes Kepler in the 17th century. Exiled from Graz, Austria, because he wouldn't convert to Catholicism, Kepler settled in Prague to work for Tycho Brahe, the leading astronomer of the age. Astronomers at that time had a Mars problem. The red planet didn't fit neatly into the geocentric astronomy of the day. Brahe assigned Kepler the job of figuring out why. After he had made multiple attempts to get Mars to fit into a circular orbit, it dawned on Kepler that the orbit might be elliptical. Kepler's laws of planetary motion explain how planets move around the sun.

Here at Catholic University, our faculty and students are immersed in a culture of research. In this annual report we offer a sampling of the many big questions they are working on: Why does history matter? What are the dynamics of organizational culture, and how can we fix toxic ones? What can we do to prevent suicide?



The questions reflect the depth and breadth of the research we are interested in, and they show that creative research is not limited to STEM areas, though it is certainly found there. Catholic University is the home of the Vitreous State Laboratory, which transforms radioactive waste into glass through a process called vitrification. The University collaborates with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center through the Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology II, providing our undergraduates the opportunity to conduct research at Goddard.

Four years ago, we launched an annual Research Day to celebrate the intellectual curiosity of our faculty and students. In 2019, Research Day attracted our largest turnout and participation, with 358 proposals submitted, 85 oral presentations, 149 posters, five interactive displays, and several musical performances. I was struck by the number of projects that address big problems like human

trafficking, immigration, mental health, and poverty. It got me thinking about the relationship between research and service, and how we at Catholic University are specially charged to connect the two in our academic endeavors. Light the Way: The Campaign for Catholic University identifies faculty excellence and research as top priorities. I look forward to witnessing great advances in these areas as we progress toward our Campaign goals.

When St. John Paul II visited campus in 1979 he remarked that the primary activities of the university are "high-quality scientific research, in-depth study of problems, and a just sense of history." On that same visit he told our students: "I know that you . . . are troubled by the problems that weigh on society around you . . . Look at those problems, explore them, study them and accept them as a challenge." I am proud to see so many students turning insurmountable problems into worthy challenges today.



HOW DOES ARCHITECTURE CONNECT US TO THE DIVINE?

Julio Bermudez is a professor in the School of Architecture and Planning where he directs the Cultural Studies and Sacred Space graduate concentration programs. He has published two books: *Transcending Architecture: Contemporary Views on Sacred Space* and *Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality*. In 2007, he cofounded the Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum, which now has more than 400 members representing 48 countries.

Julio Bermudez has been studying the relationship between architecture, culture, and spirituality for nearly 30 years. Certain features of architecture are conducive to creating a contemplative mind, he says.

“Since time immemorial, sacred architecture has been a way to establish a relation with the divine. Enter a church and, no matter who you are, you immediately begin to open yourself to something larger than you. Why does this happen? How can a physical thing transcend the material world? And don’t you feel a particular, different way when you enter a Christian place?”

How can we tell when the connection is made?

“We asked the Templeton Foundation to fund a project allowing us to use mobile EEGs to measure people’s experience of two buildings, perhaps the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception or the National Cathedral, and a building on the same significant scale but secular, like Union Station. Is there anything in the brain that correlates with the experience? What’s the neurophenomenology of these architectures?”

What sparks your interest in this topic?

“First, if I’m going to spend 10 hours a day and weekends on my work, I have to have an overlap of my professional practice with my spiritual practice. Second, I believe that the world is in need of spiritual transformation, and the way I try to contribute to that is architecture. My way is to teach the next generation to do architecture that allows this transformation to happen and, since I’m an academic, to figure out how this can be done.”



WHY SAVE RADIO?

For some people, radio brings to mind classic variety shows and performers like Jack Benny. But Assistant Professor Josh Shepperd knows the true value radio can have as an archive of local journalism and community outreach.

“Radio turns out to be a really under-researched and under-preserved area in U.S. history. Much of radio history consists of people from your community calling in and talking about political issues, making for a huge archive of local history. A lot of that history shows up in newspapers, but a number of voices in our sound trail don’t show up in the paper trail.”

How is the Library of Congress involved?

“The Library of Congress has set out to explore this under-examined repository of American history, and I’ve had the good fortune of being appointed to organize national research projects.”

What steps are you taking to preserve the sound trail?

“I organize a federal task force working with hundreds of universities and archives in order to preserve American political history. There are many different steps in the process, from locating old tapes to getting them digitally preserved and made available and curated. It’s a huge project.”

Josh Shepperd, assistant professor of media studies, is the Sound Fellow of the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board. He is also the lead faculty advisor on a National Endowment for the Humanities project called “Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection.” Shepperd is currently on a two-year digital humanities fellowship at Penn State. He is writing the official history of public media for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.



HOW CAN WE PRESERVE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS?

Robin Darling Young is an associate professor of Church history in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. She has published and lectured widely on topics in the history of early Christianity, including scriptural interpretation, the history of asceticism and monastic thought, and martyrdom.

Professor Robin Darling Young has a deep appreciation for the culture and traditions of Eastern Christianity, specifically Greek, Armenian, and Syriac communities dating back to late antiquity. When the modern-day descendants of those communities began to face threats pushing them out of the Middle East, Young recognized the rich cultures and traditions that could be lost. For the past several years, she and her team of digital historians have been conducting interviews in order to build an online library of some unique cultural traditions and histories.

How has the project grown?

Young's team began its work by interviewing a community of Chaldean Catholics who had migrated from Iraq to the Detroit area following the ISIS invasion in 2014. The results were published on the project website ccmideast.org. Now working in collaboration with a professor at the College of New Jersey, the team has expanded to the Syriac Orthodox community, who come from Syria, Lebanon, and historic Palestine.

Why is it so important to preserve individual histories?

“Unless we know who we were, we don’t know who we are. To link the present with the past in as expansive a way as possible, we try to include as many stories as possible. I’m especially interested in the stories of women because they can often paint a picture of how these Christians lived in the home, in the village, or in their families. That’s something that ecclesiastical officialdom often forgets: a Christian way of life is carried forth through families and especially through women.”



WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS?



“The relationship between the United States and China is one of the defining challenges of the 21st century,” says Andrew Yeo, who is currently studying in Asia on a Fulbright faculty research grant. Fifteen years ago he received a Fulbright as a student to study in South Korea. This time he is in the Philippines exploring how international factors influence civil society in Asia.

“China will likely surpass the U.S. in terms of aggregate power by the end of this century. Power, however, does not automatically translate into influence or global leadership. The key question is whether the two countries, despite their different political systems, can find shared interests and common values in maintaining global order.”

How is this relevant to us?

“In my Politics 436 course, U.S., China, and the International Relations of East Asia, I remind students how most of their technology gadgets are assembled or manufactured in China. The decisions policymakers in Beijing and Washington make on issues ranging from economic tariffs, cybersecurity, and national defense will have repercussions on what we consume, what we can access (or not), and what price we ultimately pay for products which too often dictate our lives. The same decisions will of course impact billions of people in China and around the globe. Much of my research and teaching tries to make international relations in Asia relevant to an American audience as we move forward into the Pacific century.”

Andrew Yeo is associate professor of politics and director of the Asian Studies program. His latest book is *Asia’s Regional Architecture: Alliances and Institutions in the Pacific Century* (Stanford University Press).



WHAT CREATES UNHEALTHY ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURES?

Brandon Vaidyanathan is associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology. These comments reflect his research on corporate life and on socialization in medical schools. His work spans a wide array of other topics, such as the aesthetic dimensions of science and mental health issues in religious communities.

All organizations — workplaces, schools, etc. — have their own specific cultures. Sociologist Brandon Vaidyanathan explores what happens when these cultures are unhealthy.

“Three factors — scripts, models, and habits — shape the hidden curriculum in organizations. Organizational scripts are the beliefs and norms about what it takes to succeed. Dysfunctional organizations have an especially wide rift between their formally espoused ideals (in the mission statement, for example) and the norms that actually govern behavior.”

Why do people adopt work place norms?

“We internalize implicit norms and rules about what it really takes to survive and succeed: whom to suck up to, whom to avoid, how to get ahead quickly. When we’re in a new environment (a new job), we look for role models who epitomize success in that environment. Through a subconscious process, we adopt the mannerisms and strategies of these models. In unhealthy environments, these behaviors include cynicism, sycophancy, and sabotage.

“And then, we develop automated responses to environmental cues and triggers. Habituation in the workplace encompasses a wide range of things: our posture, eating habits, methods of distraction, ways of processing information and of treating others. Some habits can contribute to burnout as well as to dysfunctional and even toxic cultures.”

How can these unhealthy cultures be changed?

“The same three factors are crucial leverage points for interventions. Leaders can make an effort to change the scripts that people internalize, and to align them with a higher, clearly articulated purpose. They should model courage, vulnerability, and commitment, creating new norms worth imitating. Changing habits requires the cultivation of skills that promote the flourishing of persons and organizations.”



HOW DO WE STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outlined three levels of action: primary/universal intervention programs, secondary interventions targeting those who are at risk, and tertiary interventions targeting those who have already committed crimes. Melissa Grady says, “In order to prevent sexual violence, as a society we need to design and implement programs that address all three of these levels.”

Why should we care about individuals who commit sexual offenses?

“They could be our family members, friends, or at a minimum are members of our society. Research continues to show that ostracizing them increases their risk for committing additional crimes. Viewing them as humans may reduce the risk once they have returned back to society. We need to know why they commit these crimes and how to intervene so they’ll never do it again. We need to learn about them and from them in order to gain the knowledge necessary to prevent any additional crimes.”

Is it true that “hurt” people hurt people?

“Research shows that offenders have experienced much higher rates of trauma compared to other groups, including the general population. What is unclear is why some people who experience trauma go on to commit sexual crimes, when the majority of those who have experienced trauma do not. If trauma plays a critical role in their development and subsequent offending behaviors, then addressing this adversity must be part of rehabilitation. We need more research to learn how trauma plays a role and the ways adverse childhood experiences impact individuals’ trajectories. Then we can create interventions that help target the impact of trauma as a form of sexual violence prevention.”

Melissa Grady is an associate professor of social work at the National Catholic School of Social Service. She received a \$50,000 grant for her research “Victim to Victimizer” from Raliance Grant Program. She examines sexual violence prevention, using a trauma-informed understanding of adverse childhood experiences.



WHAT CAN ANGELS TEACH US ABOUT FREE WILL?

Tobias Hoffmann is a professor of philosophy. His newest book, *Free Will and the Rebel Angels in Medieval Philosophy*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. His research interests include ethics, moral psychology, and metaphysics, especially in the 13th and early 14th centuries.

In the Middle Ages, angels were seen as interesting cases for discussions about free will. Philosopher Tobias Hoffmann explores this topic in his recent research.

“It’s difficult to say when human beings ever made a really free decision, because our decisions are conditioned by factors not under our control, such as our upbringing, emotions, the environment, peer pressure, and whatever knowledge we happen to have acquired.

“In the free will debate in the Middle Ages, Christian theologians had to come to terms with cases where these external factors were reduced to a minimum: the decisions of the angels that rendered them either permanently bad (such as Lucifer) or permanently good (such as Michael).”

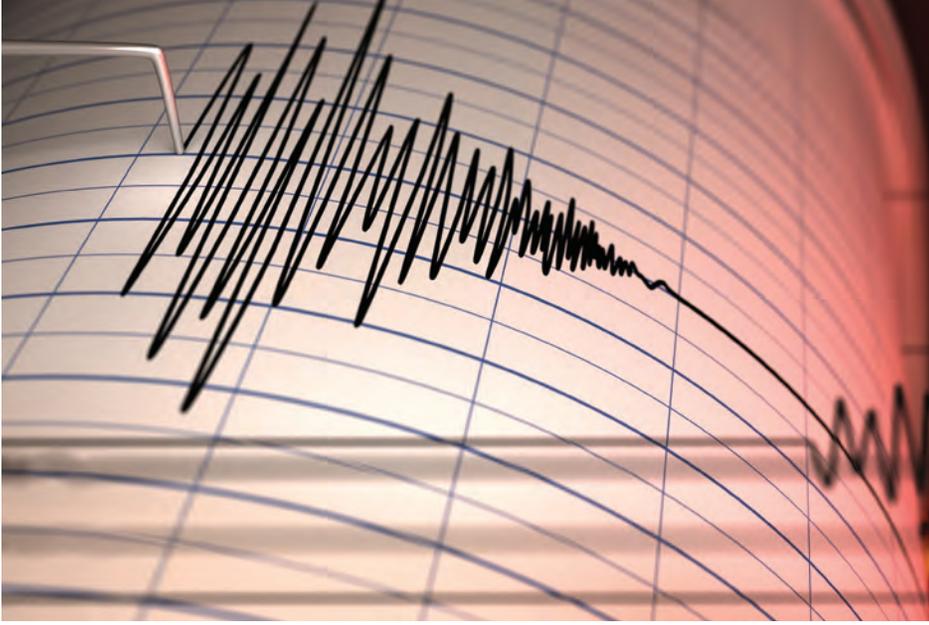
Why did medieval theologians focus on angels?

“Thomas Aquinas and other medieval theologians studied the fall of the angels to clarify the relation between free will and knowledge of what is good. Even Lucifer doesn’t do evil just to do evil — he wants something good from it: to be equal to God, to be superior to others. But how can he be blamed for desiring what he thinks is best?”

What was at stake in the free will debate?

“The two main camps were the intellectualists and voluntarists. Intellectualists said we never choose differently from what we think is best, so we make bad choices because we don’t know better. Voluntarists disagreed; they said we make bad choices because we have an evil will.

“I study how our intellectual ancestors talked about free will. We can learn from their answers to the most difficult questions. Since the ways we think about free will grow out of earlier theories, we also understand how our views are conditioned by these thinkers.”



WHY SHOULD WE 'LISTEN' TO EARTHQUAKE WAVES?

Oil companies, in search of offshore oil deposits, conduct seismic surveys by sending loud sound waves to the seabed and analyzing reflected waves. Loud, man-made underwater sounds can be fatal to marine wildlife, such as dolphins and whales, which rely on sound to navigate, find food, and communicate. Chanseok Jeong's work shows how we can mitigate underwater noise pollution.

"I focused on the knowledge that earthquake waves implicitly carry information about geological formations. By deciphering earthquake signals, we can potentially reduce sound pollution caused by seismic surveys, in oceans and still identify the location and property of an offshore oil reservoir. We already have an abundant amount of natural seismic data, and whales and dolphins already adapted to earthquake waves.

"Because it is challenging to decipher earthquake signals accurately, my research group has been developing a mathematical and computational method to analyze them."

Are there other possible applications of the idea?

"On Mars, there are marsquakes. We can measure quake motions on Mars and infer what's under the planet's surface.

"During an earthquake in a metropolitan area, sensors can listen to earthquakes. By processing measured seismic data, we can reconstruct wave responses in an area of interest and find locations of strong wave motions that could damage infrastructures in the area."

Chanseok Jeong is a clinical assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. He was recently awarded a National Science Foundation two-year grant under the project title, 'Full-Waveform Inversion of Seismic Input Motions in a Truncated Domain.'



HOW CAN SUICIDE RATES BE REDUCED?

David Jobes is a professor of psychology, associate director of clinical training, and director of the University's Suicide Prevention Lab. He has worked with every branch of the U.S. military, and many governmental organizations such as the CDC, the FBI, Veterans Affairs, and National Institute of Mental Health. He is also a past president of the American Association of Suicidology.

Psychologist David Jobes has dedicated more than 30 years to researching and implementing his CAMS approach to clinical suicide prevention. CAMS — the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality — is a therapeutic framework for treatment of suicidal patients. The method quickly reduces suicidal thoughts (in six to eight sessions) and reduces overall symptoms of distress, depression, and hopelessness.

How do you convince someone with suicidal thoughts that life is worth living?

“Within CAMS the final phase of care focuses on plans, goals, and hope for the future — a life worth living. The way we convince a patient to pursue this is by effectively treating the problems that make them suicidal. We often treat relationship issues, vocational problems, and issues of self-worth that make people suicidal. Our research shows that CAMS gives patients hope; and where there is hope there is always potential for a life worth living.”

How/Why is CAMS more effective than previous treatments?

“CAMS is patient-centric. We emphasize empathy, collaboration, honesty, and a singular focus on treating and eliminating suicidal thoughts and behaviors. CAMS creates a strong therapeutic alliance and it also invariably motivates patients to fight for their lives.”



HOW IS IMMIGRATION HISTORY RELEVANT TODAY?



When Julia Young published *Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War* in 2015, the book was solidly placed in the genre of “history.” But immigration has become a more contentious topic in the United States, making Young’s research more timely than ever. She is able to inform current policy makers and the public about the history of building walls and closing borders.

“Poverty, insecurity, and even climate change push people to migrate from their home countries. For migrants from around the world, the United States represents security, freedom, and their best chance at a better life.”

What are the biggest contradictions related to immigration?

“Our immigration system, for a variety of reasons, isn’t set up to give most would-be migrants from Latin America the chance to come legally. Yet employers in many sectors of the economy (especially agriculture, service, and construction) are willing to look the other way and hire undocumented workers. As a result, since the 1970s, we’ve seen a huge increase in the population of undocumented immigrants, the majority from Mexico and other parts of Latin America.”

What needs to be done?

“In the U.S., we must implement comprehensive reform to fix our broken immigration laws, crack down systematically on employers who hire undocumented workers, and consider raising wages so that U.S. citizens are more willing to take so-called ‘undesirable’ jobs,” Young recently told *The Hill*. “Abroad, we must work with Mexico and Central America to increase stability and economic opportunity in migrant-sending countries so that people there want to stay home.”

Julia Young is an associate professor of history and has been a fellow at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. She frequently comments in the media on topics related to immigration and Latin American history. This past year while on sabbatical, her activities included traveling to the South Texas Family Residential Center, where she volunteered with the Dilley Pro Bono Project to provide legal services to immigrant women and their children.



HOW CAN VIRUSES WORK TO HEAL?

Venigalla Rao, professor of biology, is a leading expert on viruses and associated applications such as gene therapy and vaccine development. He has received an extensive number of grants and publications within the past two years, including a prestigious Bench to Bedside grant from the NIH. Since founding his lab in 1989, he has filed numerous patents and written for prestigious publications including *Cell*, *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences USA*, *Virology*, and more.

For more than 30 years, Venigalla Rao and his team in the Department of Biology have been studying a benign virus, known as bacteriophage T4, that infects *Escherichia coli* bacteria. Their research has garnered hundreds of findings related to the basic mechanisms of viral DNA packaging, the atomic structures of molecular machines, viral engineering by CRISPR genome editing, and vaccines for anthrax, plague, and even HIV.

What links these projects, Rao says, is one underlying goal: “to learn about the basic mechanisms of a virus at the deepest level possible and apply this knowledge to redesign the virus for beneficial purposes.”

Why are viruses well suited for therapy?

“Viruses have probably evolved over millions of years, so that they can efficiently enter our cells and use them as factories to produce new viruses. This makes us sick and is sometimes deadly. We are trying to program the viruses in a test tube such that they can enter our cells but perform specific tasks or repairs that benefit us rather than infect us. These specific tasks include gene therapy, stem cell therapy, immunotherapy, and others.”

How far are we from an HIV vaccine?

“We are closer than ever to accomplishing the ultimate goal: creating a unique bacteriophage T4 virus platform to cure diseases, including HIV or even cancer. We could potentially be moving towards human trials in about five years to cure a disease, using our technology. Now we should be leaping forward, not just walking forward.”



CAN MULTINATIONALS CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOOD?



With a background in political economics and corporate strategy, Anthony Cannizzaro is fascinated by the complex economic relationships between firms, governments, and civil society that shape the international business landscape.

What is the key question in this debate?

“There is an ongoing conversation in the public square that fundamentally challenges our notion of whether the economic institutions that govern society promote the common good and whether we have a shared understanding of what the common good even is. The result is a sea change in the global economy; the globalization of firms and markets, which has both created substantial challenges and lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty over the past 100 years, is now in question. We’re starting to step back and ask whether multinational companies and global markets truly foster genuine human flourishing.”

What role do institutions play in promoting the common good?

“Much of my work examines transparency in foreign direct investment as a way to understand the impact of specific legal and cultural institutions on firms, managers, investors, and society. I’ve found that grand challenges such as political risk and corruption frequently determine whether powerful multinational corporations support or undermine the common good.”

Anthony Cannizzaro is an assistant professor at the Busch School of Business specializing in international business and global strategy, and is the director of the school’s international business program. His research has been published in outlets including the *Journal of International Business Studies*, and *Accounting, Organizations & Society*.



HOW CAN GLASS CONTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE?

Physics professor Ian Pegg is the principal investigator for the Hanford Site research and technology program that supports the design, construction, and operation of what will be the world's largest nuclear waste vitrification facility, as well as for similar projects in the United Kingdom and Japan.

As director of the University's Vitreous State Laboratory, Ian Pegg has spent much of his career immersed in the unique study of glass and its many uses. Much of the laboratory's research pertains to environmental problems and green technologies. "We enjoy being able to contribute to solving environmental issues that are so important to all of us and to good stewardship of the planet. These problems were created in times of crisis going back to the Second World War. It's way past time to deal with them and set things right again."

Why is treating nuclear waste an urgent problem?

"Our country is home to numerous nuclear waste sites in danger of leaking radioactive materials into the nearby environment. The largest is Hanford, Wash., a former Manhattan Project site and home to 177 underground tanks of nuclear waste holding 56 million gallons of radioactive liquid and sludge. As the tanks age, they will begin to leak these contaminants into the nearby Columbia River or the local water table."

How is glass a good solution for nuclear waste storage?

"Much of VSL's work has centered on nuclear waste management through a process called vitrification, in which radioactive waste is transformed into a very durable glass using a 2,000-degree Fahrenheit melter. Though the resulting glass remains radioactive, it is unable to leach into the surrounding environment."



HOW CAN SCHOOL CLINICS SUPPORT AT-RISK CHILDREN?

For two decades, Elizabeth Hawkins-Walsh has directed a Catholic University partnership with Maryland's Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Medical Health Systems, and Holy Cross Health to deliver needed primary health care services through school-based clinics.

"When the clinics began, few pediatricians in the area accepted Medicaid and the schools were experiencing an influx of children with little or no access to health care. There are now clinics in 13 elementary schools and four high school health and wellness centers in the county."

Why are schools a good place for primary health care?

"Nurse practitioners, in partnership with teachers and staff, have the opportunity to impact many social and emotional factors affecting health. Our nurse practitioners in the school-based clinics are also clinical University faculty. They have instituted innovative, high-interest programs for at-risk children including breakfast programs, which reduce absenteeism; nutrition and cooking classes given in Spanish; and noon-time programs on mindfulness and other strategies to improve well-being."

Why was Catholic University positioned to take the lead?

"We created one of the first pediatric nurse practitioner programs in the country, and were awarded a large Health Resources and Services Administration grant to bring best practices to educating pediatric nurse practitioners to work within the school communities. This positioned us well to respond to Montgomery County's new initiatives in school-based health care. The school-based clinics serve as practice sites for University nurse practitioner students."

What are the outcomes?

"School-based health centers have been shown to improve attendance, reduce local emergency department visits, and improve immunization rates. Parents report less time lost from work."

Elizabeth Hawkins-Walsh is a certified nurse practitioner, professor of practice, and associate dean for master's programs and community outreach in the Conway School of Nursing. She has been at the forefront of driving innovations to bring accessible health care to at-risk and uninsured children.



CAN PERFECTIONISM BE A PROBLEM?

Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw is the dean of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art. She is an internationally recognized music educator and classical soprano. For more than 25 years, she has hosted the popular television series *In Concert* on the EWTN Global Catholic Television Network.

In 2016 Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw presented the findings of her research, “Unmasking the Hidden Enemy: Perfectionism in Undergraduate Music Students,” at the College Music Society national conference in Santa Fe. She made a similar presentation the same year at an international conference in Paris. “Students and faculty members alike were glad to find a serious focus on the problem of perfectionism.”

How can perfectionism be detrimental to students?

“There are two kinds of perfectionism. Adaptive perfectionists set high standards for themselves but they can walk on stage and say, ‘Okay, I might not have been perfect but I’m satisfied with my performance.’ Maladaptive perfectionism is debilitating and at best can steal a performer’s joy, and at worst can end a career. It is particularly dangerous in students. Mistakes in their mind are catastrophic even when the audience might never notice it. I’ve seen my own students fall into depression and suffer from eating disorders, drug abuse, or other self-destructive behaviors.”

How can teachers help their students?

“When I was a student we called it stage fright or performance anxiety. After 25 years in higher education, I knew it was deserving of a higher level of research. I partnered with a psychology professor to teach a course on this for music students, and it became quite popular. I asked myself what more I could do to help my students. My research told me we have to change the way we are training young people. We need curriculum that addresses wellness of the mind and body.

“As teachers we are changing our vocabulary. We are no longer using the word ‘perfect’ or offering an expectation of perfection. We are changing our way of teaching to match the brain science by nurturing college students to be the best they can be.”



CAN LAWS COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Former federal prosecutor Mary Graw Leary sees the legal profession as a “vocation of service to the victimized.” She made the transition to academia in order to have greater opportunity to influence policy, national discourse, and scholarship when it comes to social issues such as human trafficking and the exploitation and abuse of women and children.

“Human trafficking is on the rise because we are normalizing people as commodities. When that happens, as a society, we are no longer horrified by the dehumanization of others, and we turn away from the reality that it is happening in our own communities.”

Have there been advances in the law?

“The law has made substantial steps forward, as this year we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Act. In 2018, bipartisan bills in the House and Senate amended Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act that provided protections to the owners of websites in regard to content posted by third parties. That 1996 law was passed before we knew how the Internet could become a haven for sex traffickers. More than 70% of sex trafficking comes from online advertisements. Traffickers have flourished on the largely unregulated Internet. The 2018 legislation allows prosecutors to go after the owners of websites who knowingly facilitate and profit from human trafficking. That being said, there remains much more to be done to help victims.”

Beyond the law, what needs to happen?

“We need to change misconceptions about the causes and effects of prostituting and exploiting people. We all must face our role in demand and our responsibility to end modern day slavery. A great role model includes many faith-based groups — particularly women religious — that have historically been leaders in this area. They have been providing shelter to the marginalized long before the word ‘trafficking’ came into our vocabulary.”

Mary Graw Leary is a professor of law. She has served as a policy consultant and deputy director for the Office of Legal Counsel at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and as director of the National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse. She frequently serves as an expert in policy development related to victimization, exploitation, and technology. Her forthcoming book is titled *Normalizing the Commodification of People*.



CAN FAITH AND SCIENCE WORK TOGETHER?

Aaron Dominguez is University provost and professor of physics. His research uses particle colliders to search for new physics. He is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award, and was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society for his research and leading contributions to the measurements of B-hadron properties for top quark physics, and for the search for and discovery of the Higgs boson.

Aaron Dominguez is an internationally recognized particle physicist. He was drawn to Catholic University as a place he could enjoy greater academic freedom and openly discuss and recognize the way his faith fuels and relates to his academic pursuits.

“As I study the building blocks of the universe, I continue to see the fingerprints of God. There is beauty and transcendence in physics. Science can and has been used as a tool to drive people away from God. I believe, as do so many of my colleagues, the contrary. Science pulls us closer to God.”

What does it take to be a researcher?

“It takes a real commitment to and love of trying to learn how the world works — solving problems and answering questions through years of experiment. In 2012, my team discovered the Higgs boson particle. It was first proposed by Dr. Peter Higgs in 1967. I’ve spent my entire career, dating back to my Ph.D. dissertation, looking for it. It was worthy of a lifetime of work. To be a researcher takes dedication, passion, and patience. A professor of mine once told me, ‘Just remember, whatever you are doing is probably wrong.’ That has been true over the course of my career. The first 10 or more rounds of any experiment are sure to fail.”

What makes research at Catholic University unique?

“As a great Catholic research university, we make the connection between what we do in enhancing knowledge through academic discipline and how we serve God. If you look at the breadth of research across the University, no matter the specialty, you will find that to be true.”

What does the future hold for research at CatholicU?

“Within our current comprehensive Campaign, growing our support for faculty research is a major priority. It’s one of my primary objectives in my new role as University provost.”



University Research Day, April 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2018–APRIL 2019

The following pages highlight events at the University and accomplishments by its administrators, faculty, and students during the period following Commencement 2018 through Commencement 2019. Position titles reflect that time period.

MAY 2018

The School of Engineering establishes a new award named for Dean Emeritus **Charles Nguyen**. The award, which honors a senior who has shown exemplary leadership as an undergraduate student, goes to **MaryKate Selgrath**, who is enrolled in the five-year dual degree civil engineering and architecture program. The award is funded by a group of engineering alumni: Matt, John, Mark, and Elizabeth Burns; Vinny Sica; Carrie Maslen; and Get Moy.

Thanks to a technique developed by **Amy Rager**, a doctoral candidate in physics, NASA scientists discover a new type of magnetic event in the near-Earth environment. The discovery is reported in the journal *Nature*. Rager is a researcher at **NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center** in Greenbelt, Md., where she is part of a team of scientists working with NASA's magnetospheric multiscale spacecraft. The discovery will help the team better understand magnetic reconnection, one of the most important processes in space that dissipates magnetic energy and propels charged particles, contributing to a dynamic space weather system.



Three professors are honored at the spring faculty lunch. **Diego Turo**, clinical assistant professor of mechanical engineering, receives the provost's Advancement in Teaching Award. **Gail Stewart Beach**, associate professor in the Department of Drama, receives the award for Overall Teaching Excellence. **Bradley Gregory**, associate professor in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, is honored with the award for Teaching Excellence in Early Career.



Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez addresses the Class of 2018 during the University's 129th Annual Commencement Ceremony. Archbishop Gomez, a member of the University's Board of Trustees, was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and later became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He is joined by four other immigrants who are receiving honorary degrees: **Toufic Baaklini**, president and chairman of the board of the nonprofit organization In Defense of Christians; **Maria Suarez Hamm**, who served as the long-time executive director of Centro Tepeyac in Silver Spring, Md.; **Dina Katabi**, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and **Ray Mahmood**, founder of the Mahmood Investment Corp. Archbishop Gomez says, "We are truly a nation that thrives on the gifts of people from every land."

JUNE 2018

The Board of Trustees votes to unite the departments of drama and art, previously in the School of Arts and Sciences, with the School of Music to create the new **Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art**.

Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw becomes the dean of the new school. An internationally recognized music educator and classical soprano, Leary-Warsaw is host of the popular television series *In Concert* on the EWTN Global Catholic Television Network.

Hundreds of scientists from around the world gather at Catholic University for a discussion about the intersection of science and faith during the second annual conference of the **Society of Catholic Scientists**, "The Human Mind and Physicalism."

As part of an ongoing commitment to the University's growth, the Board of Trustees approves **Academic Renewal**. The plan takes an innovative approach to teaching and research, and includes a wide range of initiatives to strengthen the University's position as a national research university and, at the same time, strengthen financial sustainability. Academic Renewal also includes establishing a Center for Teaching Excellence.

Law Professor **Robert Destro** is nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor.

Byung (Justin) Chung, an assistant professor of biology, who focuses on cell structure and cancer biology, receives a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for his research studying the role of keratin 19 (K19) in cancer cells.

An interdisciplinary team including **Xiaolong Luo**, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, and **John Choy**, an assistant professor of biology, receives a NIH grant in support of its collaborative research aiming to create a biological platform that will enable the study of how groups of various bacterial species interact.

The two NIH grants awarded to Chung, Luo, and Choy not only recognize fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations on campus, but also mark a prestigious accomplishment for the **Department of Biology**. With these grants, every tenure-track and tenured professor in the department has received research funding from the NIH.

JULY 2018

Physicist **Michael Corcoran** is part of a research team that publishes a new study in *Nature Astronomy*. Using data from the NASA NuSTAR space telescope, the study suggests that Eta Carinae, the most luminous and massive stellar system within 10,000 light-years, is accelerating particles to high energies — some of which may reach Earth as cosmic rays.

Marc Sebrechts, Wylma and James Curtin Professor of Psychology and chair of the Department of Psychology, is appointed Division Director, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences at the National Science Foundation.



Close to 20 priests from dioceses across the country graduate with master's degrees in **Ecclesial Administration and Management** from the University's Busch School of Business. The one-year, 30-credit online program is designed to prepare priests for effective and efficient parish and diocesan leadership.

The Catholic University of America Press and the University's **Oliveira Lima Library** receive a grant from the Brazilian National Library Foundation to publish the first English-language edition of Manoel de Oliveira Lima's classic *D. João VI No Brasil* (1808-1821).

Two professors from the Columbus School of Law — **Regina Jefferson** and **Lucia Silecchia** — participate in meetings at the United Nations as designated "experts" for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, representing the central governing body of the Catholic Church at the U.N. Headquarters.

The University's **Institute for Human Ecology** (IHE) and the Thomistic Institute sponsor the weeklong *Civitas Dei* Summer Fellowship, a program that introduces young scholars to foundational themes in the natural law tradition. The fellowship explores the role of religion in society and how Catholic scholars draw upon the wisdom of the Church to make sense of today's economic, cultural, and moral challenges.

Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, dean, Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, is appointed to the Advisory Board of the Washington International Piano Festival (WIPF). Each summer, the festival hosts pianists from throughout the world at Catholic University and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Co-directed by **Nikita Fitenko**, associate professor, and **Ivo Kaltchev**, professor and Piano Division head, the WIPF marks its 10th anniversary.

Philosophy professors who teach in the University's **First-Year Experience** program address the biennial meeting of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers. They highlight how the first-year curriculum is integrated at Catholic University.

AUGUST 2018

Nearly 30 bishops spend a week at Catholic University participating in the **Bishops' Executive Program**, a first-of-its-kind program intended to provide business training for bishops around the country. Topics covered include budgeting, strategy and operations, human resources management, communications, crisis management, and stewardship. The program is sponsored by the University's **Busch School of Business**, in collaboration with the **School of Theology and Religious Studies** and the **School of Canon Law**.

The University marks the official start of the academic year with the **Mass of the Holy Spirit** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass is celebrated by University **Chaplain Rev. Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv.**

Stephen Ogden, assistant professor of philosophy, is appointed Mellon Junior Faculty Fellow at the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame, where he will spend the 2018-2019 academic year.



The **2018 International Electron Ion Collider User Group Meeting** convenes at the University with approximately 160 physicists from around the world. The meeting is co-sponsored by Catholic University, Jefferson Lab, and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

SEPTEMBER 2018

On the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, **Michael Morell**, former acting director of the CIA, participates in a public conversation with **Nicholas Dujmovic**, director of Catholic University's Intelligence Studies Program.

Princeton University Professor **William Chester Jordan**, an important voice in the world of medieval history, discusses topics related to race and religion during a guest lecture on the topic of "The First Crusade and Jewish Martyrdom."

Marketing expert **Seth Godin** addresses students of the **Busch School of Business**, challenging them to find their origin stories in order to create a meaningful life. Godin is an entrepreneur, speaker, and author of 18 best-selling books.

The Catholic University of America vaults 57 spots in the **Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education college rankings**, landing at number 141 of the nearly 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities on the list. The University was ranked 198th in the 2018 edition of the rankings. The rankings place Catholic University 10th among U.S. Catholic Institutions overall, and third among Catholic institutions for faculty research, finance, and faculty support per student.

Five faculty members are honored at the fall faculty luncheon for their service to the community and academic life of the University. Honorees include **Melissa Grady** of the National Catholic School of Social Service; **Greg Doolan** of the School of Philosophy; **Nalini Jairath** of the School of Nursing; **Mattias Vorwerk** of the School of Philosophy; and **Thérèse-Anne Druart** of the School of Philosophy.

Daniel Burns, assistant professor of politics at the University of Dallas and visiting research associate in politics and fellow at the University's **Institute for Human Ecology**, delivered the Constitution Day lecture "What Makes Freedom of Religion Different from Freedom of Speech?"

The University announces a new **Master of Arts in Human Rights**, available through the **Institute of Human Ecology**, joining a handful of select schools that offer this degree. It is the only university that has designed such a program to incorporate the teachings of the Catholic faith.

More than 80 students, faculty, and members of the local community gather for a discussion on human rights and religious liberty with **Robert George**, Princeton University's McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence. The discussion, hosted by the Institute for Human Ecology, commemorates the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The lecture also marks the opening of the University's new **Center for the Study of Human Rights**, and the start of the new interdisciplinary degree Master of Arts in Human Rights.



The School of Engineering is awarded a \$4.6 million, 5-year grant to establish a **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center**. The new endeavor is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research of the Department of Health and Human Services, and will focus on patient-centered, mobile technologies to assess and treat sensorimotor impairments in individuals with neurologic injury.

Jonathan Monaghan, assistant professor of art, is an invited participant in the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design's distinguished Visiting Artist, Scholar, and Designer Program. He also exhibits his 3-D animations and two-dimensional printed artwork in a solo exhibition, titled *Synthetic Mythologies*, at the University.

Lawrence Somer, professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics, was honored at a conference hosted by the Institute of Mathematics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, titled "Cosmology on Small Scales 2018" in Prague.

OCTOBER 2018

“Principled Entrepreneurship: The Dignity of Work,” a three-day conference, is sponsored by the **Busch School of Business** in cooperation with the Napa Institute.

Students gather for a series of discussions exploring the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. Over three nights, **faculty speakers** and **students** discuss the impact of sexual trauma, the history of the sexual abuse crisis in the Church, positive steps that have been taken for Church reform, and the ways in which students’ faith may have been affected by the ongoing crisis.

Students, faculty, and alumni representing the **Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art** perform a program featuring the complete solo piano works of Leonard Bernstein at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, presenting a selection of what *The Washington Post* called “intimate musical portraits.”

Nick Mecholsky, a research scientist at the University’s Vitreous State Laboratory, is recognized with a Wolfram Research Innovator Award. He is one of eight recognized at the Wolfram Technology Conference in Champaign, Ill. His award is for “optimizing data mining and database processing for nuclear tank waste.”

The Center for Religious Liberty hosts a special lecture on the topic of religious liberty by the **Honorable Samuel Alito**, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States.

David Jobs, director of the Suicide Prevention Laboratory and professor in the Department of Psychology, wins the 2018 Outstanding Scientific Contributions to Psychology Award from the Maryland Psychological Association in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the association.



The School of Architecture and Planning hosts a four-day lecture series marking the 10th anniversary of the school’s **Walton Critics Program**, which brings some of the world’s best architects to campus.



William B. Plowman/NBC

Politics students attend tapings of *Meet the Press*, the weekly news television show that has been on the air since 1947. The visits are arranged by politics professors **John Kenneth White** and **Matthew Green** as part of their course Politics 421, Mid-term Elections.

How Catholic schools can better serve the growing numbers of **Hispanic and Latin American Catholics** frames the discussion at a town hall meeting sponsored by Catholic University and America Media. Panelists include **Bishop Oscar Cantú**, coadjutor bishop of San Jose, Calif.; **Veronica Alonzo**, associate superintendent of Dallas Catholic Schools; **Thomas Burnford**, president of the National Catholic Educational Association; **Monsignor Michael Clay**, director of pastoral ministry programs in the University’s **School of Theology and Religious Studies**; and **Hosffman Ospino**, associate professor of Hispanic ministry and religious education at Boston College.

The National Catholic School of Social Service hosts a talk titled “The Unheard Echoes of the #MeToo Era and the Implications for Social Workers” as part of an event to commemorate the school’s 100th anniversary year.

Students and faculty in the Department of Biology hear from a leading voice in the field of cellular biology during a keynote lecture from **Rick Horwitz**, the inaugural director of the Allen Institute for Cell Science. The lecture concludes the 2018 **Biology Graduate Student Research Symposium**, which features oral and poster presentations from more than 30 biology students and faculty members.

The Metropolitan School of Professional Studies receives three awards from the Mid-Atlantic region of the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. **Tony Boehm**, associate director for undergraduate studies, receives the Alexander Charters Emerging Professional Continuing Educator Award; **Lashay Long**, director of admissions and communications, receives the regional Marketing and Promotions: Electronic Award; and undergraduate interdisciplinary studies major, **Deborah Nicholson**, receives the Outstanding Continuing Education Student Award.

Cardinal Weekend brings 2,500 alumni back to campus for reunion and homecoming festivities, and raises \$4 million in reunion gifts.

NOVEMBER 2018

University professors, students, and friends from the community gather to commemorate a radio broadcast delivered 80 years ago from Catholic University's campus. On Nov. 16, 1938, less than one week after **Kristallnacht** — “The Night of Broken Glass” that most scholars mark as the beginning of the Holocaust — CBS and NBC joined forces for a live broadcast organized by Catholic University condemning the actions of the Nazis against Jewish citizens in Germany. The evening of commemoration included a concert featuring the original work of University Music Professor **Joseph Santo** that incorporates part of the radio broadcast in his musical score. Other pieces by Jewish composers were performed, with arrangements by **Murry Sidlin**, former dean of music and professor of conducting, and **Daniel Peterson**, doctoral candidate in orchestral conducting.

Mitch Landrieu, the former mayor of New Orleans, addresses the University community as part of the Department of History's “History Matters” lecture series. Landrieu, who earned a B.A. in theatre and political science at CatholicU, rose to national prominence in the spring of 2017 following the removal of four New Orleans Confederate monuments. His message to the audience was, “In order to live without racism, our country must first confront its past.”



University Provost **Andrew Abela** (center) travels to Brazil as a guest of the Brazilian government to accept the Order of Cultural Merit on behalf of the University's **Oliveira Lima Library**.

Catholic University alumnus **Martin O'Malley** is on campus to address more than 100 students, providing insights into what he sees for the future of the Democratic Party. O'Malley graduated in 1985 with a degree in political science; he has been mayor of Baltimore, governor of Maryland, and a Democratic candidate for president.

Four journalists discuss issues related to the sex abuse crisis in the Church, including the role the press plays in investigating, reporting, and framing the public's understanding. The panel discussion was



Catholic University rugby players finish their seasons with championship tournaments. The women's club took second in the nation and the men's club advanced to the regional finals in their divisions within the National Small College Rugby Organization.

hosted by the **Institute for Human Ecology**. It was moderated by *New York Times* columnist **Ross Douthat** and featured religion journalists **Elizabeth Bruenig** (*The Washington Post*), **Christopher White** (*Crux/The Tablet*), and **J.D. Flynn** (Catholic News Agency), who earned his licentiate in Canon Law from the University in 2007.

The Neal Potter Plaza, along the 11-mile Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda, Md., is dedicated. The park is based on designs of students who participated in a Catholic University **Urban Design Studio** in 2006 and 2007, under the direction of their professor Iris Miller, who graduated from the **School of Architecture and Planning** in 1979.

During 24 hours on **Giving Tuesday**, the University raises \$113,428.

DECEMBER 2018

University musicians kick off the holiday season with the 29th **Annual Christmas Concert for Charity**. The concert includes performances by the Catholic University Chamber Choir, the University Singers, the University Chorus, and the Symphony Orchestra conducted by **Allan Laino** and **Timothy McDonnell** from the choral conducting faculty. **Benjamin Yuly**, who is pursuing his D.M.A. in composition at the University's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, premieres his composition, *In dulci jubilo*. The concert also features new arrangements of classic carols by alumnus **Benjamin LaPrairie** and McDonnell, who is director of choral activities and sacred music.

The third annual **Scholarship Dinner** honors donors and recipients and celebrates more than \$16 million in gifts at year's end.

A panel of three immigration historians present “**Immigration Debates, Past and Present**” as part of the Department of History’s History Matters lecture series. The panel includes **Timothy Meagher**, associate professor of history and University archivist; **Julia Young**, associate professor of history; and Georgetown University’s **Katherine Benton-Cohen**. They concur that history points to important patterns. Though the percentage of immigrants to the U.S. has remained fairly constant through the years, different populations feature more or less prominently at different times. And always, it seems, similar arguments against immigration are invoked.

Venigalla Rao, professor and chairman of the Department of Biology, ends the year with a publication in the Dec. 21 issue of the prestigious journal *Nature Communications*, which marks more than a dozen high-profile articles from the professor’s lab, the **Center for Advanced Training in Cell and Molecular Biology**, within an 18-month period. Rao is a leading expert on viruses and associated applications such as vaccine development. He founded his lab in 1989 and leading science agencies and foundations have consistently funded his discoveries. The latest series of successes indicate the lab is getting closer to the goal of creating a unique bacteriophage T4 virus platform to cure diseases, included HIV.



Maria Meléndez Altieri, mayor of Ponce, Puerto Rico’s second largest city, is on campus to speak with students about her experiences following Hurricane Maria. The event is sponsored by the **Latin American and Latino Studies Program**.

Sixteen students from the Catholic University **Intelligence Club** visit the National Reconnaissance Office, one of the “big five” U.S. intelligence agencies. The club regularly sponsors field trips to U.S. intelligence organizations in cooperation with the University’s Intelligence Studies Program.

Engineering student and University athlete **Brian Aberle** receives a United States patent for his method of amplifying the power of cell phone camera lenses.

Approximately 500 members of the University community join the **March for Life**. This year, the University institutes a new policy cancelling classes during the March, making it easier for faculty and students to participate. The University also hosts hundreds of high school students overnight in advance of the March.

The Catholic University of America and the Dominican House of Studies kick off the second semester of the academic year and National Catholic Schools Week at the **annual University Mass** in celebration of the feast day of patron St. Thomas Aquinas.

The Catholic University **Athletics Department** is honored for its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by receiving the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIII AA) Community Service Award for On-Going Projects.

Catholic University becomes the publisher of one of the leading academic journals in the humanities. *Humanitas* was for many years published by the National Humanities Institute before becoming the publication of the University’s **Center for the Study of Statesmanship**.



The University community celebrates the annual lighting of the Christmas tree in front of McMahon Hall at “Light the Season,” hosted by the Office of Campus Activities. **Jeanne Garvey**, wife of University President John Garvey, shared a poem about Advent and University chaplain **Rev. Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv.**, led the opening prayer and benediction.

JANUARY 2019

Andrew Yeo, associate professor of politics, hosts a seminar with a group of 18 students from Japan, Korea, and the U.S. as part of the Japan-America Student Conference Korean-American Students Conference annual trilateral forum at the Columbus School of Law.

FEBRUARY 2019

The role of the laity in “**Healing the Breach of Trust**” is the focus of a conference that brings together prominent clergy, historians, theologians, and canon lawyers to discuss the theological and historical grounds for lay involvement in the Church as part of a solution to the current sex abuse crisis.

Most Rev. José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, delivers the School of Theology and Religious Studies’ annual **Hispanic Innovators of the Faith Lecture** “Born for Greater Things: From the ‘Crisis of Man’ Toward a New Christian Humanism.”

The launch event for **Alumnifire**, a new online resource sponsored by the **Office of Alumni Relations and the Center for Academic and Career Success**, brings together students and alumni for career networking opportunities.

Cardinal Athletics raises \$33,464 for Special Olympics DC by hosting a polar plunge for the sixth year in a row.

Alumnus **Matthew Skros** is honored by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency with the Walter Pforzheimer Award for a paper he wrote as a student that was published in *Studies in Intelligence*, the professional intelligence journal of the CIA for the U.S. intelligence community. Skros, who graduated in 2018, was one of the first students to receive a **Certificate in Intelligence Studies** from Catholic University.

“The Humanity of Espionage” is the topic of a panel discussion including four former CIA spy handlers and moderated by **Nicholas Dujmovic**, assistant professor and director of the University’s Intelligence Studies Program. The discussion is part of a series of events cosponsored by the program and the **Institute of Human Ecology**.



Catholic University **nursing students** come away from the 2018 National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) with a 98.57% pass rate for first-time test takers.

Ozlem Kilic, director of Catholic University’s Engineering **Center for Care of Earth (ECCE)**, joins **John Judge**, engineering dean, and other University officials on a trip to Rome, where they deliver a letter to Pope Francis explaining ECCE’s continued commitment to climate change initiatives and responsible care of earth.

MARCH 2019



Carlini Field is officially open as the women’s lacrosse team beat Franklin & Marshall in overtime 10 – 9. The newly renovated multi-use turf field is now home to men’s and women’s soccer and men’s and women’s lacrosse. The field was funded through the generosity of **Board of Trustees Chairman Joe Carlini**, B.M.E.1984, and his wife **Christine**, B.S.E. 1986.

The newly renovated, 101-year-old **Maloney Hall** is celebrated as the new home to the **Busch School of Business**. The event begins with a Mass of Consecration for the building’s St. Michael the Archangel Chapel altar, which is celebrated by Arlington’s **Bishop Michael Burbidge**. An event follows that honors donors who brought more than \$20 million to the renovation project. Among them are lead donors **Tim and Steph Busch**, for whom the Busch School is named.

The National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS) celebrates its 100th anniversary with a Mass in commemoration of the Feast of St. Louise de Marillac, the patron saint of social workers, followed by a gala dinner. Among the alumni recognized is **John Mosby Russell**, who earned his B.A. in 1950 and his M.S.W. in 1952. Russell, a longtime NCSSS benefactor, makes a \$100,000 commitment to establish the Centennial Scholarship for graduate students at NCSSS.

President of Southwest Airlines **Tom Nealon** speaks at Catholic University about management, creating a company culture, and how he balances a committed life of faith. The event is sponsored by the **Busch School of Business**.

The Department of Anthropology presents “Blackbeard’s Lost Flagship” with **Mark Wilde-Ramsing**, who directed archeological investigations on the ship from its discovery in 1996 until 2012 and co-wrote a new book on the topic. Wilde-Ramsing earned a master’s in anthropology from the University in 1984.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awards a three-year \$263,780 grant to physics professors to establish a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The REU site award, which is funded by NSF’s Division of Physics in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate, supports the training of six to eight undergraduate students per year for 10 weeks during the summers of 2020–2022. The program is designed to engage students who would otherwise not have the opportunity for research experiences, including those from non-research universities. Physics professors **Tanja Horn** and **Ian Pegg** are the co-principal investigators for the award.

The Busch School of Business and **Carly Fiorina** announce an academic partnership to integrate Fiorina’s leadership and problem-solving curriculum into the business student experience. Fiorina, former Hewlett-Packard CEO, is appointed distinguished clinical professor in leadership at the Busch School.

Matthew Blanchard wins second place in World History at the Phi Alpha Theta Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, for his paper “Who is the Barbarian? The Spanish Conquest of Mexico.” He was one of seven students from the Department of History to present.

Two Catholic University students place third at a research conference with their paper “How Dumbledore Saved Europe: A Comparison of Fascist Rhetoric in European History and in the Harry Potter Franchises.” Seniors **Natalie Rice** and **Emma Pederson** are awarded third place in the **Tenth Annual MadRush Undergraduate Research Conference** at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.



Working with prisoners on death row is the subject of a talk by **Sister Helen Prejean** at a CUA on Tap event sponsored by the **Office of Campus Ministry**. Sister Prejean is the author of *Dead Man Walking*, a best-selling memoir that was adapted into a 1995 Academy Award-winning film.

Experts in the fields of theology, sociology, management, gender, and journalism take part in a conference “What’s Really Going On? The Root Causes of the Current Crisis.” The third in a series of “**Healing the Breach of Trust**” events, the conference is sponsored by **The Catholic Project**, a Catholic University initiative dedicated to healing solutions within the Church.

The **Metropolitan School of Professional Studies** (MSPS) signs an agreement with the Washington, D.C.-based education non-profit **Saylor Academy**. Through its Free Education Initiative and Direct Credit Program, the academy offers an array of tuition-free online courses, all certified for college credit by the American Council on Education. As part of the collaboration, MSPS will accept credits from 16 courses offered by the academy.

The Catholic University of America **Columbus School of Law** is named the 2019 **National Champion at the National Trial Competition** in San Antonio, Texas.

David Jobes, professor of psychology and associate director of clinical training, is the keynote speaker at the **NAVIGO National Mental Health Conference** in Grimsby, England. The meeting focused on the successful clinical use and possible nationwide adoption of his “CAMS” framework for effectively treating suicidal risk in the United Kingdom.

APRIL 2019

The Catholic University of America Press announces an increase in sales of more than 30% this decade with current sales at record-breaking levels. Journals published by the press are also seeing electronic subscription revenue at an all-time high.

Pope Francis appoints **Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory** as the seventh Archbishop of Washington, and by virtue of that office, the Chancellor of The Catholic University of America.

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, **Jon Parrish Peede**, joins University **President John Garvey** to discuss “Keeping Faith in American Universities: Belief, Knowledge, and Democracy.” **Michael Kimmage**, chair and professor of history at the University, moderates.

The Founders Day Giving Challenge raises \$196,455 from a total of 1,077 gifts by 926 donors.

Melissa Grady, associate professor in the National Catholic School of Social Service, receives a grant of \$50,000 from the Raliance Grant Program for her research “Victim to Victimizer,” which applies a trauma-informed understanding of adverse childhood experiences toward preventing sexually abusive behavior in adulthood.

Eight student teams compete at a hackathon sponsored by the **School of Engineering’s Center for Service through Innovation**. The title is “Data Science Insights to Improve D.C. Voter Turnout.”

Four Catholic University juniors win first place at the **International Business Ethics Case Competition** held at Loyola Marymount University in California. Business majors **Emma Flanagan, Brendan Dillon, Billy Wilson, and Nick Spinelli** beat out 30 teams from five countries. The team worked with Busch School faculty **Frederic Sautet** and **John Tieso** as well as the school's Career Development team to prepare three presentations for the competition.

Catholic University is one of eight local universities to sign an updated **College and University Sustainability Pledge** with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. The updated pledge — which was based on a proposal first signed by higher education institutions in the District in 2012 — commits signatories to meet the city goal of becoming the “healthiest, greenest, most livable city in America by 2032 through leadership in sustainability.”

Aaron Michael Butts, assistant professor in the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures, is selected for membership for academic year 2019-2020 at the **Institute for Advanced Study** under the auspices of the Mellon Fellowships for assistant professors. As part of the fellowship, Butts will be writing a book tentatively titled *The Conversions of Ethiopia: A Study of Ancient and Modern Historiography*.

The Environmental Justice Symposium is co-sponsored by the University's **Institute for Policy Research** and the **National Catholic School of Social Service**, and Georgetown University's Law Center Campus Ministry. Topics include how Catholics can bridge the gap between the scientific and ethical imperatives of climate change, the impact climate change has on underserved populations, and the need for multidisciplinary action.

Using the Hubble Telescope, **Martin Cordiner** — a research associate with the Department of Physics' **Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences** — working with a team of international researchers, confirms the presence of Buckminsterfullerene, or



The women's **lacrosse team** finishes the 2019 season with a 17-5 record, tying the school record for wins in a season after winning its sixth consecutive Landmark Conference championship. Head Coach **Megan McDonogh** receives her fifth Landmark Conference Coach of the Year Award.

buckyballs, in interstellar space. Buckyballs are enormous “celebrity molecules” made of 60 carbon atoms arranged in the shape of a soccer ball. Their discovery improves our understanding of the composition of the diffuse interstellar medium, and the conditions and environment in interstellar space.

Andrew Yeo, associate professor of politics, receives a Fulbright faculty research grant to conduct research in the Philippines. He will be affiliated with the University of the Philippines-Diliman as part of a project exploring how international factors influence civil society and democracy in the Philippines and in Asia.

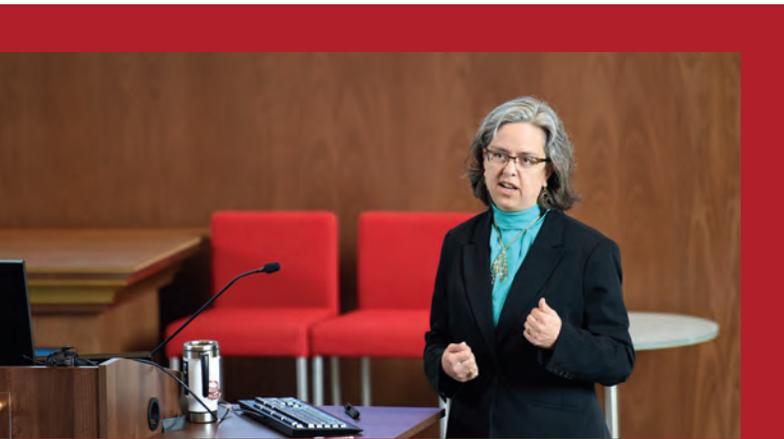
The final “**Healing the Breach of Trust**” conference hosted by the University's **Institute for Human Ecology** and **The Catholic Project** explores the role of the laity in helping to address the crisis in the Church.

While observing coronal rain, physics doctoral candidate **Emily Mason** finds smaller structures that show a link between two solar mysteries: why the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona, is hotter than its surface, and the source for slow solar wind.

The Engineering Center for Care of Earth holds its second conference on climate change. Speakers include **Giovanni Cecconi**, founder of the Venice Resilience Lab; **Rev. John Chryssavgis**, archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and **Martin O'Malley**, former mayor of Baltimore, governor of Maryland, and CatholicU alumnus.

The Office of University Advancement closes the fiscal year with more than \$55 million raised to support the University.

Three students receive Fulbright grants. Seniors **Claire Christensen** and **Cara Duffy** are awarded English Teaching Assistantships. **John Paul Heyne**, a doctoral candidate in history, will continue his dissertation research in Jerusalem.



Catholic University's 2019 **Research Day** features a record 358 submitted proposals, 85 oral presentations, and 149 posters. **Ann Corsi**, associate professor of biology, is the keynote speaker. She talks about her area of research expertise, transport roundworms (nematodes) that she uses to research human craniofacial diseases.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The University's pattern of financial success continued in Fiscal Year 2019 (ending April 30, 2019). The financial statements included in this annual report demonstrate the University's strong financial profile. With growing net assets, the University is able to leverage its available resources for today's strategic priorities and capital improvements for future success.

FY2019 RESULTS

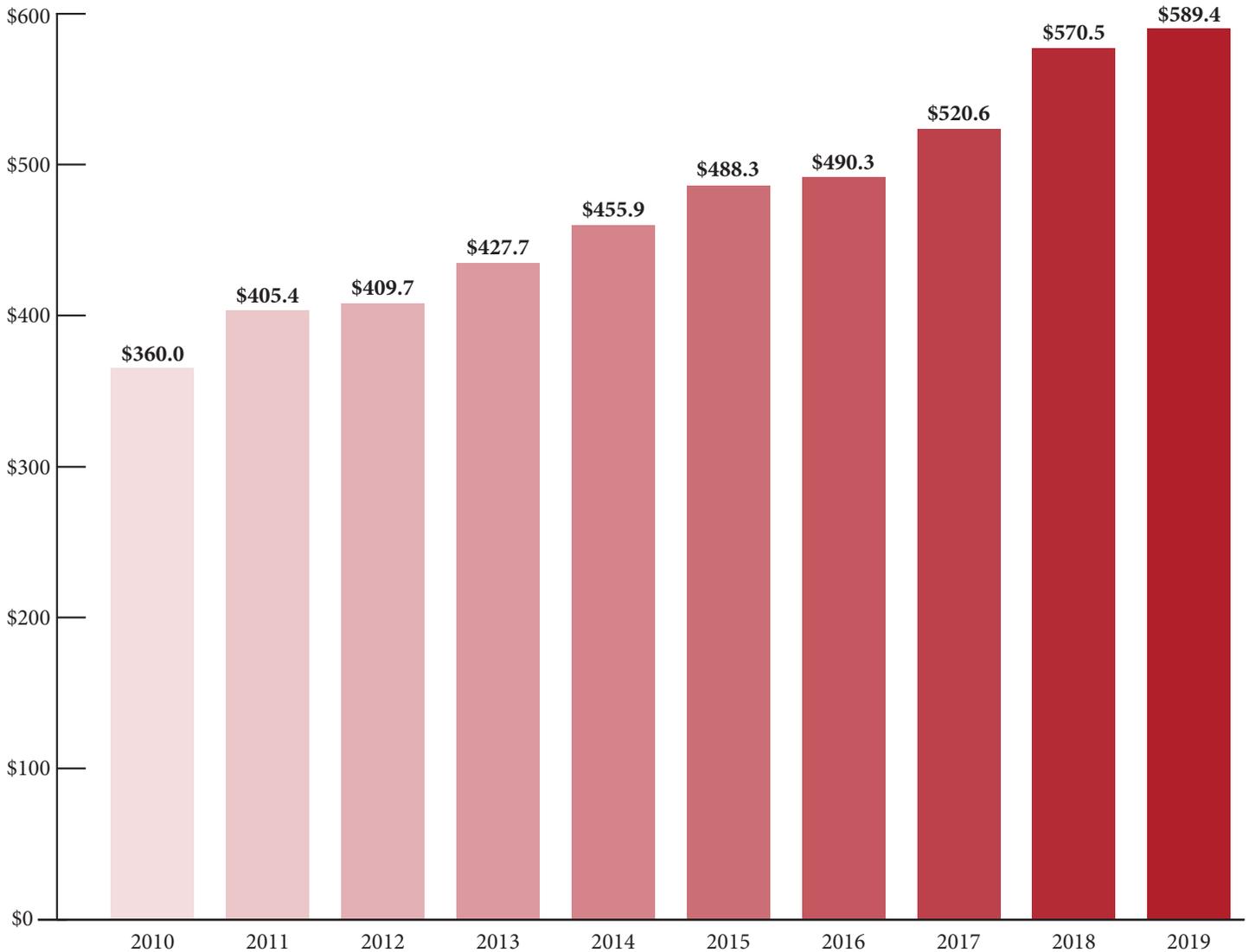
The University ended Fiscal Year 2019 with a positive operating net of \$6.9 million. Total University net assets increased \$18.9 million to \$589.4 million. **Exhibit I** illustrates the changes in net assets over the past 10 years.

As depicted in **Exhibit II**, the University derives its operating revenue from five major sources: net student tuition and fees, sales and services of auxiliary enterprises, grants and contracts, contributions, and investment return designated for current year operations. The University's Fiscal Year 2019 operating revenue was \$238.3 million. The University's main source of revenue is net tuition and fees, providing the University with \$121.9 million, or 51.2% of total revenue. Auxiliary-related revenue constituted \$35.8 million, or 15.0% of total revenue. Investment returns in support

of operations, coupled with working capital earnings, totaled \$26.6 million, or 11.2% of total operating revenue. Grants and contracts yielded \$27.2 million, or 11.4% of total operating revenue, while operating contributions of \$23.2 million represented 9.7% of operating revenue.

Operating expenses totaled \$231.3 million, representing a \$4.8 million, or 2.1% increase over last year. The University continued with a budget strategy that facilitates a balanced budget while increasing strategic capacity investments in areas directly or indirectly supporting enrollment and philanthropy. **Exhibit III** depicts the breakdown of the expenses by function. It is noteworthy that 56.7% of operating expenses either directly benefit students or are attributable to academic areas. Instructional expenses for

Exhibit I: Total Net Assets (\$ millions)



Fiscal Year 2019 were 43.6% and student services totaled 13.1% of total expenses. **Exhibit IV** shows operating expenses by type of expense. The largest category of expenses — salary, wages, and employee benefits — represents 62.6% of the University’s total operating costs. Salaries, wages, and employee benefits decreased 0.6% primarily as a result of faculty early retirement and buyout programs accrued during the prior fiscal year.

As part of a continuing strategy to consciously focus on investments in revenue drivers central to the University’s core mission, the University made a major investment in University Advancement in support of the planned launch of the comprehensive Campaign. The investment supported the planned addition of 24 new positions in the office and will support the operational expenses necessary to support a successful campaign. In addition to this investment, the University continued to fund its three-year plan to create a new integrated career and advising center

to further serve the needs and expectations of new students (and their parents) as they enter the University, and of continuing students as they prepare to graduate and enter the job market. The concluding investment in a plan to create four new varsity athletics options for students — men’s and women’s crew, and men’s and women’s golf — was also made. Additional options for varsity athletics will not only enhance the student experience, but will also enhance University recruitment efforts and lead to improved student outcomes in academic performance, retention, and graduation.

The University continued to invest in improving the quality of the student experience by issuing revenue bonds to fund a new dining center and a new residence hall for first-year students. Revenue from these facilities will retire the debt, and they will help the University to better recruit and retain new generations of students to the Catholic University.

Exhibit II: Sources of Revenue

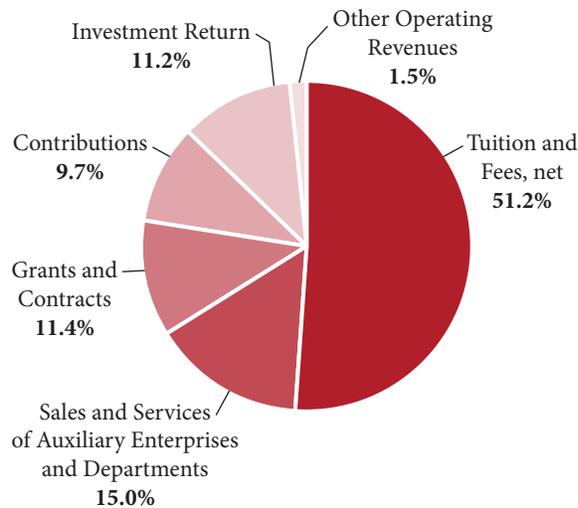


Exhibit III: Expenses by Function

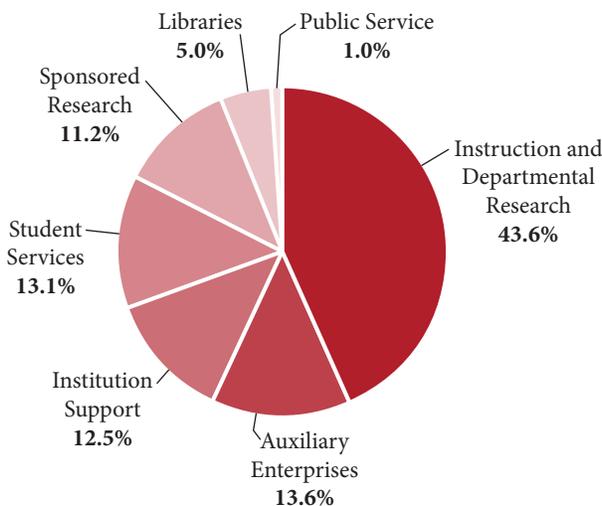
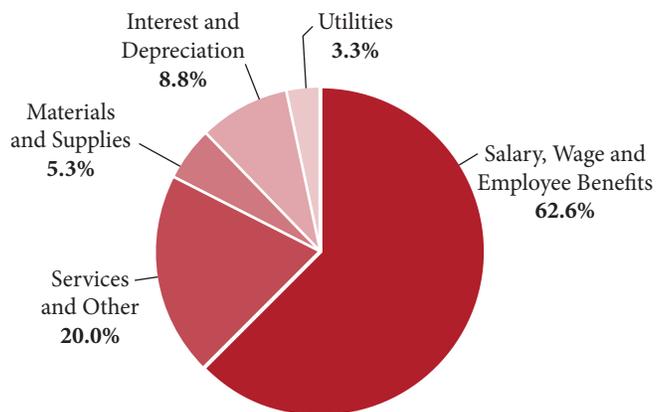


Exhibit IV: Expenses by Type



LONG-TERM POOLED INVESTMENTS

The University's long-term pooled investments consist of endowment and designated funds invested to support the University's operating and capital needs. Donor- and quasi-endowed funds are restricted by either donor or Board of Trustees action, respectively, while designated funds are unrestricted funds invested for the longer-term by the University that can be budgeted for expenditure. The market value of the pooled investments was \$380.4 million for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2019; which represents an increase of \$14.8 million or 4.0% over the prior year. The annual return for the year ended April 30, 2019, was 7.0%. The per annum average return for the five years ended April 30, 2019, for the pooled investments was 6.4%. **Exhibit V** illustrates the changes in the pooled investments for the last 10 years.

The University employs investment and spending policies designed to preserve endowment asset values while providing a flow of income to the operating budget to balance current and future needs. To

provide for the future, the University structures its portfolio to maintain and build the endowment's inflation-adjusted purchasing power. To provide current support, the University's endowment spending policy provides that 4.5% of the trailing 12-quarter average of the market value of the donor- and quasi-endowment be allocated to the operating budget.

The fundamental principles of the University's endowment management are to combine a prudent approach with a diversified asset allocation that focuses on long-term performance since endowments exist to provide perpetual funding. The investment pool maintains an allocation to fixed income to protect assets in accordance with the University's investment policy when equity markets are falling. Other assets are diversified among publicly traded equity securities, alternative assets, real estate, and emerging markets, with a global and industry diversification within these asset classes. The asset allocation strategy for Fiscal Year 2019 is provided in **Exhibit VI**.

FACILITIES

The Campus Energy project continued its progression through the south portion of main campus in Fiscal Year 2019. The central system in the Power Plant was on-line in mid-October 2018 in time for the heating season. Eight buildings received heat generated by new boilers in the central plant and delivered through the new hot water piping. The new chiller and cooling tower in the Power Plant were also commissioned and operational in Fiscal Year 2019. Chilled water distribution piping is in place and connected to buildings with existing cooling systems. Capacity for the central plant to cool all buildings on the distribution loop is also in place to accommodate future connections to the central system as individual buildings are renovated. Planning, design, and preparation work for Phase 2 of the Campus Energy Project, which expands the piping to north part of campus, also continued in Fiscal Year 2019.

The campus gateway across from the Metro Station and the conversion of Pangborn Road into University Walk, the new main pedestrian entrance and path onto campus, were completed in time for Commencement in May 2019. The new gateway, path, and landscaping improve accessibility and support best management practices for storm water, including bio-retention plantings.

Several key capital projects were also completed and dedicated in Fiscal Year 2019, including Carlini Field and the renovation of Maloney Hall as the Busch School of Business. The Certificate of Occupancy for Carlini Field was received in March, allowing the facilities to host soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse play in spring 2019. Maloney Hall opened for business classes near the start of the spring semester and was formally dedicated in March 2019. The consecration of the building's St. Michael the Archangel Chapel also took place in March.

Restoration and renovation of Caldwell Hall's exterior windows and façade kicked off just as Fiscal Year 2019 ended. The work continued through the summer. Similarly, preparations began at the end of Fiscal Year 2019 for other important summer work, including the renovation of Flather Hall restrooms and the refurbishment of several auditoria and classrooms throughout campus. Construction continued in Pangborn converting the old library into collaboration space and an interdisciplinary design lab. The planning and design for the Science Lab Renewal program also began in Fiscal Year 2019, with Chemistry in line for a lab renovation in McCort-Ward during the first part of Fiscal Year 2020.

Design work on the new Dining Commons continued throughout Fiscal Year 2019, including presentations to neighboring community groups and preparation for zoning approval at the end of May. The Construction Manager for the new facility was on board supporting the refinement of design and planning the early site and utility work activities.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2019, the University solicited proposals from design teams for the new Residence Halls that will be constructed on John McCormack Road east of Opus Hall.

Finally, an Assistant Director for Campus Facilities and Sustainability Initiatives was hired and launched efforts to communicate, coordinate, and expand the many programs the University is engaged in that support environmental stewardship as inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

Exhibit V: Pooled Investments Market Value (\$ millions)

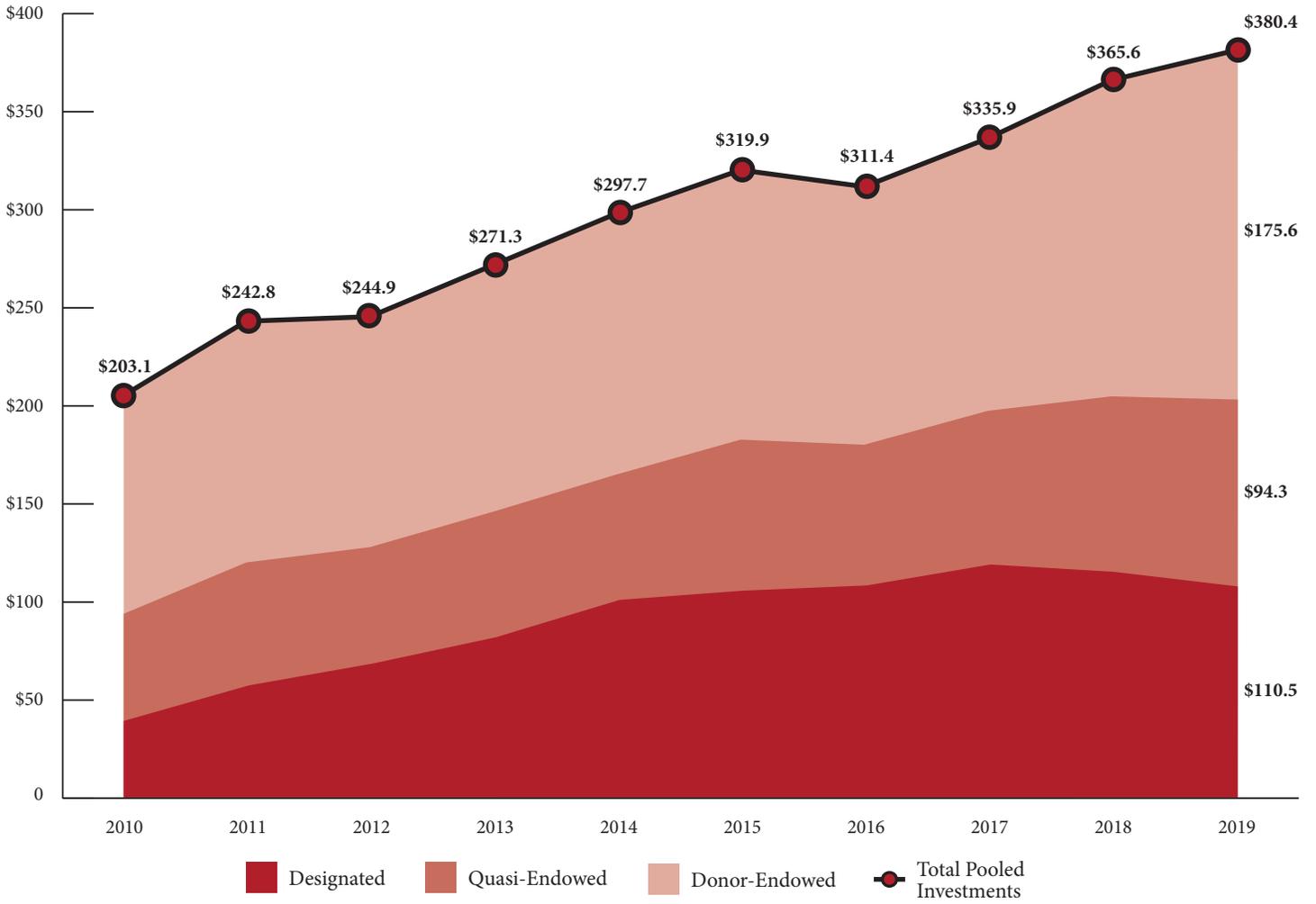
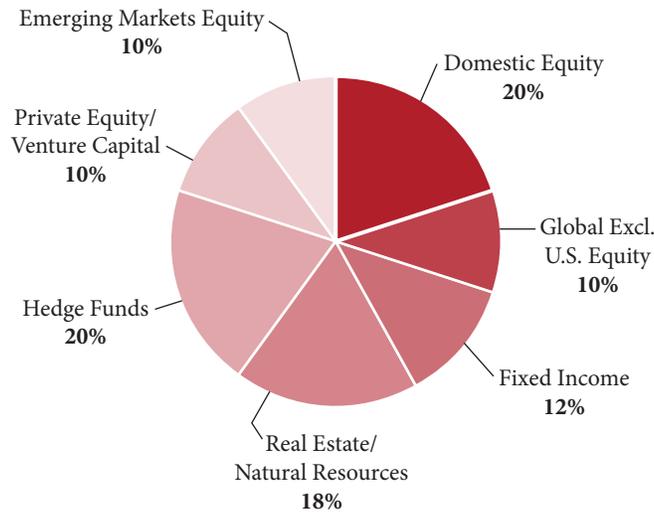


Exhibit VI: Asset Allocation by Strategy



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in thousands) — For the years ended in April 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018		2019	2018
Assets			Liabilities and Net Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 25,206	\$ 25,178	Liabilities:		
Deposits with bond trustee	95,935	60,633	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 43,069	\$ 32,902
Accounts receivable:			Deferred revenues, student deposits, and other liabilities	10,442	8,141
Student fees and other, net of allowance	7,869	11,057	Refundable advances from the U.S. government	6,544	6,579
U.S. government and other agencies, net of allowance	5,548	4,136	Split-interest agreements	1,750	1,865
Student loans receivable, net of allowance	6,715	7,454	Asset retirement obligations	9,757	9,250
Contributions receivable, net of allowance	36,307	43,066	Indebtedness, net	201,300	151,636
Investments	416,818	406,715	Total liabilities	272,862	210,373
Deferred charges and other assets	5,594	6,082			
Property and equipment, net	259,754	214,079	Net assets:		
Interest in perpetual trusts	2,550	2,502	Without donor restrictions	332,034	318,849
Total assets	\$ 862,296	\$ 780,902	With donor restrictions	257,400	251,680
			Total net assets	589,434	570,529
			Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 862,296	\$ 780,902





CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

(in thousands) — For the years ended in April 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018		2019	2018
Operating Revenues and Support			Nonoperating Activities		
Student tuition and fees, net	\$ 121,942	\$ 125,593	Contributions	12,462	24,134
Federal and private grants and contracts	27,218	25,512	Investment return in excess of amounts designated for current operations	1,813	14,025
Contributions	23,228	33,661	Changes in the value of split-interest agreements	797	912
Investment return designated for current operations	26,587	15,990	Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt	20	(439)
Sales and services of departments	1,622	1,639	Capital campaign costs	(2,951)	(640)
Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises	34,182	32,641	Other nonoperating gains (losses)	(168)	105
Other operating revenues	3,489	3,337	Change in net assets from nonoperating activities, before transfers	11,973	38,097
Total operating revenues and support	\$ 238,268	\$ 238,373	Board-designated transfers from operations	3,000	-
Operating expenses			Change in net assets from nonoperating activities, after transfers	14,973	38,097
Educational and general:			Increase in net assets	18,905	49,905
Instructional and departmental research	100,963	101,566	Net assets at beginning of the year	570,529	520,624
Sponsored research	25,845	20,174	Net assets at end of year	\$ 589,434	\$ 570,529
Public Service	2,545	2,420			
Libraries	11,460	11,335			
Student Services	30,315	27,581			
Institutional support	28,811	33,976			
Auxiliary enterprises	31,397	29,513			
Total operating expenses	231,336	226,565			
Change in net assets from operations, before transfers	6,932	11,808			
Board-designated transfers from operations	(3,000)	-			
Change in net assets from operations, after transfers	3,932	11,808			

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