Catholic University has been producing annual reports for public consumption for several years now. I initiated this report and established the process by which it is produced: early in each academic year I select a theme for the report, provide general guidance, then the staff does the data collection, reporting, writing, editing, photography and layout. One of the last steps in the process is the writing of this letter. I wait until the rest of the report is in hand to see if there is some particular insight that I might glean from the collective labor of numerous creative minds.

I was not disappointed by this year’s results. The charge I gave was to focus on the theme of Catholic identity. What do those two words mean for an institution of higher learning? On a theoretical level it is not such a tough nut to crack. But on a practical level, it’s a question that invites serious reflection. The thoughtful words of our students, faculty and staff in the pages that follow live up to the challenge.

By coincidence the phrase “gratia plena” appears in two of the vignettes. The words, which are Latin for “full of grace,” constitute the name of a CUA women’s group. They are also in the prayer that begins with the phrase “Hail Mary, full of grace.” Grace is God’s assistance to us, which we have not in any way merited.

Here at Catholic University, we create a community that is deeply influenced by faith, by belief in God as our creator and the one who makes us most authentic and most fully ourselves. The element of faith is a value added that we bring to each academic discipline. We foster an environment that will make our students, faculty and staff open to God’s offer of “gratia plena.” That grace can be revealed in predictable places (chapels) and in unpredictable ones as well (a marketing class, a biomedical engineering lab and a volleyball court). It can lead people to switch majors, to find their true vocations and even to make dramatic lifestyle changes.

Year in and year out we recommit ourselves to our mission of sustaining a vibrant Catholic identity, while at the same time serving our students and faculty as a doctoral extensive research institution. It makes for an interesting mix. And I think it makes us pretty special.
Andrew Abela

Putting Faith to the Test

Andrew Abela put his faith to the test when he accepted an assistant professor position five years ago, taking a substantial pay cut to come to CUA.

Abela spent the first 15 years of his working life in business but kept being drawn back to school. He holds a master’s degree in business, studied graduate theology, and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia’s Darden Business School in marketing and business ethics. During his business career he often volunteered to lead training sessions. “I loved teaching,” he says. “And I thought often about becoming an academic. But I also liked the money I was making in business.” When he and his wife started a family — they now have five children — he realized they would enjoy a better family life if he weren’t traveling all the time. The business and economics professor assured his family and himself, “Trust God for the money. And,” he says, “the Lord has taken care of us.”

Marketing, Abela says, has been identified as the business field with the most ethical infractions. “As Catholics we have the benefits of the rich perspective we get from Catholic social teaching.” He brings that perspective to all of his classes, most pointedly in his class Marketing and Community, which examines the impact of mass marketing on society. “We explore in what ways our field helps and hurts society — particularly its moral fiber,” he says.

In their ethical and faith dimension, Abela’s classes differ fundamentally from those offered at public universities. “I try not to have just a ‘rah-rah, let’s all get rich, let’s buy lots of products’ attitude. I try to foster a critical view of mass consumerism. As a result, my marketing students say ‘Oh, you’re making me uncomfortable.’ And I respond, ‘Good. Better now than later.’ I want them to think this through carefully, so that they can leave here and be ‘good’ marketers in all senses of the word.”
Whether studying the structure of materials in the electron-microscopy lab he oversees in Hannan Hall, preaching the Gospel at a local church, judging entries in area science fairs, or reflecting on the spiritual aspects of living with two tropical birds, Rev. Andrew Buechele, Sch.P., Ph.D., embodies the inextricable link between faith and reason.

A CUA graduate with a degree in physics (B.A. 1967) who went on to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University in materials science and engineering, Father Andy — as he’s known around the Vitreous State Laboratory — looks on his life in science as a practice of his faith. "My science is a way of looking at the world and attempting to understand it at the material level. The fact that progress can be made in understanding it tells me that there has to be a principle of intelligibility behind it on a higher level."

As a priest who is also a scientist, he believes he helps bridge the gaps people perceive between religion and science. "Developments in science have made such an impact on our society, on the way people look at the Bible, on people’s faith. It’s important that there be people like myself who are connected directly with the Church and working in science." When he serves as a science fair judge, "students see that the Church isn’t hiding its head in the sand about what’s going on."

A member of the Piarist order, he returned to Washington, D.C., in 1983 to oversee Piarists at the order’s house of studies who were juniors at CUA. "With only two juniors, that wasn’t a full-time job, so I inquired and started working in the physics department."

Father Andy, priest and scientist, brings to every endeavor his deep Catholic faith. "The world is something I look at and explore and expect to understand, because it comes from something which is above, something which made it to be ordered, made it specifically, and out of love. An act of faith precedes science."
From the Heart of the Church to “Incredibly Beautiful Moments”

Nearly 100 Catholic University students don tacky rented shoes, find the ball that’s just right and take to the lanes at George Washington University’s Hippodrome bowling alley on a Friday night. Gutter balls, spares, strikes, faith . . . Faith? How does faith belong in a bowling alley?

“Everything we do, every activity we do should answer the question, How will this bring a person closer to Christ and help them live their faith?”, says Rev. Robert Schlageter, O.F.M. Conv., chaplain and director of Campus Ministry, commonly known as “Father Bob.” Bowling on Friday night and activities like it are moments of fellowship that bring students closer together and help them establish relationships. These relationships often provide the foundation for further spiritual growth. The most important evangelizers on our campus are not our staff, but our students, who in incredibly beautiful moments bring each other to Christ.”

Not only do they bring Christ to each other, they also bring Christ to others in D.C. — to children in elementary schools where they volunteer as tutors, to babies and toddlers they play with at St. Ann’s Infant and Maternity home, and to hungry and homeless people on Friday food runs. In all, the Office of Campus Ministry sponsors service activities with 21 organizations.

“Ex Corde Ecclesiae challenges us to be of service to the community,” Father Bob says of Pope John Paul II’s encyclical on higher education. “Catholic universities are not to be little cities on a hill set apart. One of the challenges the Church gives us is to be involved in the life of the city.”

Ex Corde Ecclesiae — meaning, from the heart of the Church — also states that at the heart of a Catholic university and its daily activities should be demonstrations of faith. Besides the Masses offered on campus each week, Campus Ministry facilitates small faith communities in RENEW groups, where students study the Gospels together and commit to praying for each other; and in weekly Eucharistic Adoration, an opportunity for students to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. “I am in awe of the way our students pray,” Father Bob says.

“Do our students have all the struggles of young adults?” he asks. “Absolutely. People don’t leave their humanity at Michigan Avenue as they pass the Catholic University sign. They’re normal kids, but many have a deep passion to see God’s presence in their lives and live their faith.”
When Monsignor Kevin Irwin, dean of CUA’s School of Theology and Religious Studies, says, “Everyone else is here because of us,” he’s not bragging: The school he leads was the first one established at CUA; around it rose the university, now with more than 6,000 graduate and undergraduate students, earning bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, and dedicated to the university’s mission of serving Church and Nation.

Unique in that service are the ecclesiastical faculties of the schools of philosophy, canon law, and theology and religious studies. These schools grant not only civil degrees, but also ecclesiastical degrees accredited and certified by the Holy See, earned by Catholic clerical, lay and even non-Catholic students.

“All professors in an ecclesiastical faculty who are Catholic are appointed with the missio canonica, the canonical mission, by the archbishop of Washington, who is the university’s chancellor,” explains Rev. Kurt Pritzl, O.P., dean of the School of Philosophy. “This means that they teach in the name of the Church as well as in their own name.” Those who are not Catholic also enter the faculty certified by the chancellor with the “permission to teach.”

Philosophy
That CUA’s philosophy faculty is ecclesiastical, says Father Pritzl, is “a daring statement. People expect theology and canon law faculties to be ecclesiastical. The idea that the Church can certify that CUA’s philosophy faculty, as a genuine philosophy faculty basing its teaching and research on natural reason and experience, teach solidly in the traditions of truth that the Church represents and preserves, distinguishes us in a very real way.” CUA’s School of Philosophy, one of only three schools of philosophy in the country, is the only doctoral program in the United States with ecclesiastical standing.

“Theology and Religious Studies
CUA was founded to be the pontifical university in the United States. In the School of Theology and Religious Studies that mission finds its apotheosis in a curriculum “so classical as to be comprehensive and not bound to any era,” says Monsignor Irwin. “This enables us to always have something to say to new questions.” Areas of study reflect all the disciplines of Catholic theology — biblical studies, Church history, liturgical studies/sacramental theology, moral theology/ethics, pastoral and ministerial studies, and Hispanic/Latino studies. Each area is examined through historical sources — from the Scriptures through post-Vatican II. Committed to open exchange, the school encourages cross-teaching with canon law, intraschool seminars between theology and religious studies and philosophy professors, and frequent lectures by world-renowned theologians.
Samantha Giusti

A Member of The House

During the last academic year junior Samantha Giusti and eight other students at Washington, D.C.’s Catholic University served as members of The House. But rather than pass legislation for constituents at home like the denizens of that other house down the road a few miles on Capitol Hill, the CUA students lived on campus in the annex to Caldwell Hall, serving their peers as student ministers. Residents of The House host a weekly Mass in their living room, sponsor Wednesday night adoration in Caldwell Chapel, plan and organize alcohol-alternative programs — from polka dancing to bowling to monster truck rallies — and provide spiritual guidance to freshman students in their residence halls.

The freshman ministry was one of Giusti’s most important and satisfying duties. “It can be so confusing for freshmen coming into college, not knowing anyone or not knowing who they are, and too often they can fall into bad patterns,” she says. “The goal of The House is to get them on the right track; to be someone to talk to and to really take an interest in their faith life.” That can be as simple as visiting the freshman dorms just to say ‘hi’ to the students, “a ministry of presence,” Giusti says, “to be another resource for them to talk to.”

A native of Gloucester, N.J., Giusti came to The Catholic University of America to study politics; she credits the people at CUA and those she encountered through volunteer work with helping her discover her true vocation in social work. “Had I gone to a public university, I would not have been as attuned to that mature adult faith in my life where God could be calling me to certain things.

“As a student minister and in my work after graduation I hope I help foster the desire in other people to grow in faith as well.”
According to research by CUA sociologists, for many young Catholics, their Catholic identity is an underlying but not necessarily overt part of their day-to-day lives. In fact, some students say that they chose CUA because it was in D.C., and had good academic programs, not primarily because it was Catholic.

Joe Musmanno was one of those students, enrolling at CUA to be in “the college town capital of the world” and to study pre-med in a “small and well-respected” program. “CUA’s Catholic identity didn’t spark me to enroll,” he says.

For the first years of college, Musmanno attended the more formal Masses at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, adjacent to campus. He says, “The great thing about Catholic University is that you have many ways to practice your faith and no one judges you.”

He was involved in Orientation for new students, the CUA radio station and the pep band, but steered clear of Campus Ministry, in spite of the fact that, as he says, it offers a “mind-boggling” number of opportunities.

As a junior, Musmanno began to realize how important his Catholic faith had been throughout his lifetime. “I wanted to work on deepening my faith and see where it would go.” He took the plunge on a Campus Ministry-sponsored spring break mission trip to Jamaica.

“The Jamaica trip opened a whole new faith community to me,” he says. It also offered an entree into deepening his faith. He became a resident minister assisting resident advisers and Campus Ministry with upperclassmen in Millennium Hall during his senior year.

“I found at CUA the perfect place to truly ‘practice’ my faith. And when I wanted to go more deeply spiritually, the community was right here, ready to help.”
CUA campus tours always stop at St. Vincent’s Chapel, a quiet respite during the day. But come Sunday evening around 9 the chapel — located in the heart of a student residence complex — is packed to overflowing with undergraduates worshipping at the sometimes exuberant Mass. Katie Acuff, CUA graduate (B.A. 2003), associate director of CUA’s Annual Fund, and evening law student at the Columbus School of Law, says that places on campus like St. Vincent’s were important to the deepening of faith she experienced at CUA. Calling the chapel one of the most spiritual places on campus, she says, “I’d love to go back there, but I know I’d be such a has-been.”

During her undergraduate days, Acuff found another place on campus that also deeply touched her undergraduate soul: “Of all places, you wouldn’t think of the gym as spiritual,” she laughs, “but the camaraderie I shared and the heated competitions — over time you see the goodness of people, and more and more you realize they’re just like you. That’s where my best and longest lasting friendships developed.

“I remember, too, before the teams left for away games, Father Bob [director of CUA’s Campus Ministry] would come to DuFour to say Mass.”

Volleyball at the Raymond A. DuFour Center is a thing of the past for the law student with a full-time job. But she has found a new place on campus to lift her more mature spirit. “Now that I spend the vast majority of my time in either Aquinas Hall, where I do my work, or in the law school, one of my absolute favorite places is the law school chapel. It is a hidden gem, so serene and calm, especially in the evening time,” she says of Mary, Mirror of Justice Chapel. “People are coming in from a long day of work. To go into that chapel is so peaceful. And the rest of it just disappears.”
CUA junior Katelyn Kenny helps several ladies pick out their nail polish color at the Jeanne Jugan Residence for the elderly across Harewood Road from the CUA campus. Then, as she paints their nails, she thinks of her grandmother, Mildred Kenny, who passed away in 2001, just a week after she had a stroke. Kenny says “it breaks my heart when the residents have no visitors. The elderly deserve someone who cares about them because they have lived so long and worked so hard.”

Always close to her grandmother and heavily influenced by her religious devotion, Kenny brought her own strong Catholic faith to CUA. A social work major from Estell Manor, N.J., she spends dinnertime every Wednesday at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. Kenny first got involved with Campus Ministry activities as a freshman; during spring break that year she went on a Habitat for Humanity trip to Austin, Texas. After finishing her sophomore year finals, she joined the spring 2006 mission trip to Belize. By the end of her junior year, she was running the CUA student visits to the Jeanne Jugan Residence and serving as a leader of the 2007 mission trip to Belize.

The foundation in faith that Kenny’s grandmother laid continues to guide her at CUA where she is an active member of the faith community. A regular at the Caldwell Chapel Mass at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Kenny finds particular satisfaction in the student Mass at St. Vincent’s Chapel at 9 p.m. on Sunday. “When people talk about the Church as a family, I picture the Mass at St. Vincent’s,” Kenny says. And because “the sound of family” always reminds Kenny of her Catholic faith, she says she can’t imagine being anywhere else on Sunday night than at St. Vincent’s with her CUA friends.
Junior Emily McGlynn started as a freshman at Catholic University in fall 2004 but her roots at CUA go back to September 1946. That’s when her great uncle and World War II veteran, William Henry Holl, started classes at CUA. Holl met his wife, Betty Ann, there. They were the start of a CUA legacy that requires an organizational flow chart to track and includes their son, William Edward Holl, as well as three of the elder Holl’s nephews, one of whom is Emily McGlynn’s father, Kevin McGlynn. Emily’s father and mother, Ann Hathway — one of five Hathways to graduate from Catholic University — met on campus; Emily is the third of their five children to go to CUA.

World War II vet Holl says he was drawn to CUA because “it’s a strong, faith-centered institution. My college experience had a dramatic, centering effect on my spiritual life.”

When Ann and Kevin McGlynn looked at colleges for their children more than 50 years after William Holl enrolled, they never pushed Catholic University. Emily says she seriously considered other schools before choosing CUA. But in the end, she picked Catholic University because it had, among other things, “a strong faith community.” Like her great uncle, Emily says her CUA experience has transformed her spiritually. A double major in philosophy and mathematics, Emily finds that studying philosophy “helps you think about your faith in a deeper way.” As a member of Gratia Plena, the CUA women’s group, she has explored the theology of the body. “Gratia Plena is so affirming of our experience as women of the Church,” she says. “It’s been wonderful to discover how we can live our lives not just as children of God but also as daughters of God.”

Older sister Kathleen McGlynn graduated before Emily came to CUA. But Emily and her sister Mary Bridget — a novice at a Michigan convent of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist — studied at CUA together before Mary Bridget graduated in May 2006. Emily says that sharing life on CUA’s campus with her sister is one of the many reasons Catholic University has always “felt like home.”
Ryan Hehman figured he would start college an art-loving, “good Catholic boy” and graduate a skilled architect who had become a good Catholic man. “I loved art in high school and wanted to put it to good use. I wanted a good architecture program and CUA has one. And I wanted to attend a Catholic university.”

He couldn’t have predicted, however, how radically his experience at CUA would change his life plan. “I was intent on pursuing architecture until my sophomore year,” he says. Then he went to Guatemala on a Campus Ministry-sponsored mission trip where, he says, he had an “encounter with the Third World, with poverty and with Christ. I discovered I was just giving lip service to my faith and wasn’t living it in my heart.

“My heart changed: I went from knowing my faith to living my faith.”

He switched to anthropology where he “could study more broadly” problems in Latin America, environmental degradation, homelessness, immigration and Latinos in the United States. “I could write and think deeply about these problems and have discussions about them. This is what mattered to me.”

After graduation in 2006, he eschewed graduate school, spent several months at a Catholic Workers house of hospitality in Arizona, then returned to D.C. to work with a faith-based nonprofit. “I should have felt good about helping people and making a good living.” But, he says, “I wasn’t at peace.”

Hehman ran into a mentor who had opened A Simple House of Sts. Francis and Alphonsus, which serves the poor in Southeast D.C. “His ideas about living voluntary poverty, serving the poor, evangelizing, living a radical Christian witness really resonated.” Hehman moved to the house as a volunteer in December 2006, distributing food and other necessities to neighbors.

“That I live this more radical lifestyle – living with no seam between work and life, giving myself more to God and to Christ and serving the poor – has given me the peace I’d been seeking.”
As dean of CUA’s Metropolitan College, Sara Thompson, Ph.D., is excited about serving as an administrator at an institution where she can practice her Catholic faith. It’s faith, she says, that “gives us the passion to be able to serve others.”

Thompson’s faith has prompted her to incorporate some principles of servant leadership into her management of the school. Based on the teachings of Jesus, servant leadership considers the needs of members of the organization in order to develop and bring out the best in them. As the evangelist Mark wrote in the New Testament, “… even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

As dean for the past five years, Thompson has doubled enrollment from about 150 to more than 300 students, developed programs for adult learners that have allowed them to advance professionally, and facilitated the recent change as Metropolitan College separated from the School of Arts and Sciences to become the 12th school of the university. The change from a college to a school adds value to the students’ degrees, giving them a boost in their careers, which they’re starting later than the typical college graduate.

Most of the school’s students are women in their 30s who put college and careers on hold years ago so they could support their families. Like her students, Thompson balances a busy professional life with her role as a mother. She jokes that she does some of her best praying — and thinking — in the car, almost the only time she has alone.

She recently recalled thank-you notes written in fall 2006 by her students to donors of scholarships they are receiving. Their heartfelt sincerity touched the dean. One recipient wrote, “The scholarship will help me graduate in four years, but the result will change my life forever.” This is proof, says Thompson, that “our work at Catholic University has real meaning.”
Eight years ago, Binh Tran, Ph.D., came to Catholic University as an assistant professor in biomedical engineering — then a concentration within mechanical engineering — with the idea that he’d serve the Church and teach for a few years before going on to a big research institution. “Once I got to CUA, however, the nice exchange of teaching and research and the ability to work with small groups of people and make an impact kept me here,” Tran says. “I came to understand what the university is about and its mission and I found it fit very well with my career path.”

Making an impact, serving the Church and establishing a career coalesced for Tran within the first nine months of his arrival. Major funding from the Whitaker Foundation as well as a large grant from the Department of Education, “in effect formed the department” that Tran now chairs. This year the department had six full-time faculty, average annual research funding of $1 million, 25 graduate students and 65 undergraduate majors.

“How faith removes barriers is how you apply your faith in your everyday life, whether that’s through sharing your skill sets with people you interact with every day or through research,” he says. Tran’s research centers on home care technologies. “One barrier for people, especially seniors, is the physical mobility aspect of getting into the hospital or seeing the doctor,” says Tran. “On top of that we’re working with low-income seniors, where affordable care is another barrier. This is a perfect way technology can play a role in delivering health care directly into people’s homes. It gives the patients’ medical team a more realistic picture.”

Biomedical research at CUA — whether in home health care, rehabilitation or prevention — derives focus and synergy from the university’s Catholic mission. “Right now people aren’t really focusing on the needs of low income seniors,” says Tran. “Right now people who are wealthy can pay for their own services and get access. But there is inequality across the board in health care.”

“Every day I try to ask myself, ‘What have you done to improve society as a whole?’ At CUA, I have found many ways to answer.”
Tucked under the base of one of the two computer monitors on Edward Trudeau’s desk is a small piece of paper. On it is a set of prayers for the rosary, typed in English on one side and Latin on the other. Reciting the Hail Mary (Ave Maria, gratia plena ...) and other prayers in Latin, he says the rosary on his way to work at CUA’s Center for Planning and Information Technology.

Computer programming and prayer might seem worlds apart, but both speak to Trudeau’s Catholic identity. In his job as manager of research and academic applications development, he provides much-needed information technology expertise to the faculty and staff, who advance the pedagogical mission of CUA and enhance classroom instruction. He also works closely with Campus Ministry and the School of Canon Law — which has a direct impact on the Church — and others with ecclesiastical missions on campus. “It helps that, as a Catholic, I understand their missions,” Trudeau says. He’s especially gratified to facilitate programming for canon law’s two online courses, whose students, he notes, “include parish pastors, who have some of the busiest calendars in the country. We’re able to tailor our services to meet their needs.”

Trudeau came to CUA not as an information technology manager but as a full-time doctoral student in theology with a plan to teach when he finished his studies. At the time, he and his wife had three children. When his wife became pregnant with their fourth child, Trudeau decided to take a full-time IT job at CUA.

His formal education may be on hold while he supports his family, but working at Catholic University offers Trudeau opportunities to keep his theological mind supple. Every two weeks he meets with his spiritual adviser and former teacher, Rev. Regis Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., professor of historical theology and spirituality. The two retire to a quiet place on campus and engage in “far-ranging discussions about life and questions of spirituality,” says Trudeau.
The Columbus School of Law presents a seminar addressing the religion and politics of Israel, Spain and Iran. Speakers include law professors from Tel Aviv University, University of A Coruña (Spain) and Shahid Beheshti University (Iran).

The School of Philosophy holds its annual fall lecture series — one of the longest, continuously running philosophy lecture series in the country — titled "Augustine and Augustinianism."

More than 150 lay and religious Church leaders, scholars, journalists and activists gather at CUA for "The Catholic Church in America: 2006," a conference on the state of the Church in the United States. The conference features panels and presentations on modern Catholic identity, the Church’s public presence, parish life and trends among U.S. Catholics today.

Twelve scholars from around the world visit CUA to participate in "History and Cultural Identity," a 10-week seminar addressing the ways national history affects cultural identity. The seminar is co-sponsored by the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy and CUA’s Center for the Study of Culture and Values.

CUA’s Board of Trustees creates the Cardinal William Baum University Professorship and confers them on the chancellor of CUA, Archbishop Wuerl, and Father O’Connell, respectively.

The School of Canon Law sponsors the Institute on Matrimonial Tribunal Practice, bringing together 30 participants from across the United States and with backgrounds in parish ministry and diocesan tribunal work.

Very Rev. David M. O’Connell, C.M., president, leads a CUA delegation to Cracow, Poland, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Jagiellonian University and the Holy Spirit, held annually in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to inaugurate a new academic year.

CUA marks the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks with a memorial Mass in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine. A steel cross — crafted by a New York City firefighter from debris found at the World Trade Center — rests on the altar during the celebration.

The School of Arts and Sciences kicks off a yearlong series of events celebrating its 100th anniversary with a lecture on the threat of pandemic influenza given by Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. Also, as part of the centennial celebration, Chilean Ambassador Mariano Fernandez delivers a lecture, "Chile and Latin America."

CUA and Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice USA co-sponsor a training program on Catholic social teaching for diocesan priests, nuns and lay administrators at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The faculty includes Archbishop Wuerl, Cardinal McCarrick and seven CUA faculty members.

The Columbus School of Law holds a symposium, "Roundtable on Religion in the Public Square: Religious Traditions Shaping Law and Public Policy," the first in a planned series of discussions about religious perspectives on law and public policy. U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., delivers the keynote address.

CUA’s Department of English presents leading American poets Dave Smith and Judith Harris reading their work.

A cover story article focuses on Father O’Connell’s efforts to reinvigorate CUA’s Catholic identity in the Catholic Colleges & Universities section in the weekly Education Sector, a case study on CUA recognizes the school for saving hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last six years on its energy purchasing, while avoiding $450,000 in future costs.

Rev. Gerald O’Collins, S.J., a world-renowned theologian who helps the Pope choose his theologians, delivers the Wimmer Chair of Theology at Marquette University, receives CUA’s Johannes Quasten Medal for Excellence in Scholarship and Leadership in Religious Studies.

CUA hosts 1,600 high schoolers and their chaperones who travel to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision to legalize abortion.

Father O’Connell receives a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award — the highest honor bestowed by the National Catholic Educational Association — for reinvigorating CUA and its Catholic identity, and for being an articulate public champion of Catholic higher education.

Internationally renowned composer Nicholas Maw visits the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music to discuss his opera “Sophie’s Choice” as part of the music school’s Visiting Composers Series.

Tim Roemer, a member of the 9/11 Commission and former U.S. congressman, speaks at CUA regarding national security in the United States in the 21st century.

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John Convey, provost and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chair, delivers the 2006 Ruggiero Lecture, titled "Catholic Identity: The Value-Added and Essential Component for Catholic Education," at DeSales University.

Catholic University of America 2006–2007 Annual Report

Highlights

In the wake of the shootings at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, CUA organizes a 7-hour prayer service for the victims, their family and friends. In the days that follow, students, faculty and staff participate in a national day of mourning, raise money for the Virginia Tech Catholic campus ministry, and write hundreds of prayers that are sent to the Blacksburg, Va., school.

Otiswa Lima Library contributes 24 original objects to a public exhibition sponsored by the Brazilian Embassy in Washington’s Union Station. The exhibition, “Brazil-U.S. Intersections: 130 Years of Partnership,” commemorates the visit of Brazilian emperor Pedro II to the United States in 1876. The library’s objects comprise one-third of the entire show.

The School of Engineering establishes 2+2 programs with the Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan and the International University of the Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, paving the way for CUA to admit Asian students who complete the first two years at their home institutions to conclude their degree program at the School of Engineering at CUA.

CUA confers more than 900 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees during its 118th Annual Commencement Ceremony. Tony Snow, White House press secretary, delivers the commencement address. He and Anthony Williams, former mayor of Washington, D.C., receive honorary degrees. The President’s Award, given annually to one outstanding graduating senior, is presented to Megan Payne of Elkton, Md. The President’s Medal — the university’s highest honor — is presented to Mabel McGlothlin, the longtime senior executive assistant to CUA’s provost.

More than 250 degrees are distributed at the commencement ceremony for CUA’s Columbus School of Law. R. James Nicholson, secretary of veterans affairs, addresses the graduates. He and Rev. Donald Harrington, C.M., president of St. John’s University in New York, receive honorary degrees.

Starbucks is an instant success when it opens for business in the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center.

In Memoriam

Antonio Coa
professor emeritus
School of Philosophy

Eugene Kennedy
former dean and professor emeritus
School of Arts and Sciences

Monsignor Robert Paul Mohan
CUA President’s Medal recipient and professor emeritus
School of Philosophy

Charles Montrose
chair and associate professor
Department of Physics

Marilyn Neely
former dean and professor emeritus
Bryanman 7 Home School of Music

Michael Patrick O’Connor
chair and professor of Semitic Languages
Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures

Appointments

Sulpician Father Melvin C. Blanchette
rector of Theological College

James F. Brennan
president and professor

Kimberly Kelley
dean of the School of Library and Information Science

Sister Rose McDermott, S.S.J.
interim dean of the School of Law

Archbishop Donald Wuerl
chancellor

Grants

The School of Nursing receives two grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration. A $1,017,000 grant will fund an ongoing program that prepares Spanish-speaking students in middle and high school for nursing careers, and a $778,077 grant will prepare community/public health clinical nurse specialists to work with immigrant and refugee populations.

CUA and Washington, D.C.’s Kreeger Museum are awarded a $232,836 grant to create an arts program to enhance the development of cognitive skills in middle school students with learning disabilities. CUA receives $183,831 as a subcontractor on the project.

The National Science Foundation renewes a three-year grant of $210,000 per year to physics professors Franz Klein and Daniel Solber to continue their nuclear physics research on the interactions of polarized photons with polarized protons and neutrons, using polarized beam and target facilities at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Va.

Jon Klein, head of the MFA playwriting program, is awarded a $5,000 playwriting grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to develop a new play with a scientific theme or subject, which is commissioned and performed in a public reading by the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York.

CUA’s Vitreous State Laboratory, under the direction of physics Professor Ian Pegg, receives six grants totaling nearly $8 million to continue research and development on the conversion of nuclear waste into stable glass and to improve processing of such waste at two Department of Energy sites; he also receives a $108,000 grant from the Department of Transportation for cement and fly ash research.

Biology Professor Venigalla Rao receives a three-year grant of $480,000 from the Henry Jackson Foundation for a project to engineer high-quality immunogens towards the development of an AIDS vaccine.

The Catholic University of America 2006–2007 Annual Report

30

31

Philosophy Professor Timothy Noone receives a two-year grant of $165,000 from the Luso-American Development Foundation for a program that will prepare workers to advance professionally in the dynamics of gender, race and science education among Asian-American students.

Sociology Professor Sandra Hanson receives a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation CAREER totaling $410,000 to study materials to help heal damaged bone.

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering Otto Wilson receives a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER grant totaling $450,000 to study vehicle-highway interaction to improve the design and management of highway infrastructure.

Sociology Professor Sandra Hanson receives a three-year grant totaling $255,649 from the National Science Foundation to study the dynamics of gender, race and science education among Asian-American women.

CUA’s Metropolitan College receives a $220,482 grant from the D.C. Department of Employment Services for a Washington-area program that will prepare workers to advance professionally in the health care and hospitality industries.

Law Professor Marshall Breger receives a four-year grant totaling $165,000 from the Luso-American Development Foundation for a project titled “Initiative for Portuguese and American Legal Dialogue.”

Philosophy Professor Timothy Noone receives a two-year grant totaling $150,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study and edit the works of medieval philosopher/theologian John Duns Scotus.

NASA awards Research Associate Professor of Physics Glenn Wahlgreen a $127,383 grant to study the dynamics of stellar atmospheres through ultraviolet spectroscopy and Adjunct Professor of Physics Norman Nesa a $100,000 to analyze data from the interstellar missions Voyager 1 and 2.

Law Professor Ratt Ludekiewicz receives awards from the Republic of Poland, the Copernicus University of Torun, and the University of Wrocław, in recognition of work he has done in Poland with the American Bar Association’s Central and East European Law Initiative and the Sister Law School Program, which has fostered relationships between CUA and several Polish universities.


Veryl Y. Miles, dean and professor, Columbus School of Law, delivers the commencement address at Wells College (Aurora, N.Y.). Miles graduated from the college in 1977.

Nelson Minnich, professor in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, is appointed to the Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences. He joins Monseigneur Robert Trisco, professor emeritus of theology and religious studies, on the committee.

Barbara Moran, assistant professor of nursing, is elected president of the Association of Women’s Health, Neonatal and Obstetric Nurses.

Adrian Marshek, assistant professor of architecture and planning, is elected to the board of directors of the Society of Architectural Historians, USA.

Charles C. Nguyen, dean of the School of Engineering, is elected associate editor of the IEEE Systems Journal, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He receives an honorary professorship from Southeast University in Nanjing, China, and the 10th Anniversary Award from the International Journal of Intelligent Automation and Soft Computing (AutoSoft), for contributions as founder and past editor-in-chief of AutoSoft.

N. Thomas Pedersen, lecturer and co-chair of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, premieres his work, “A Fiery and Still Night” (Capstone Records).


Kenneth Pennington, Kelly-Quinn Professor of Ecclesiastical and Legal History, is presented with a Festschrift—an anthology of scholarly essays written in his honor—on his 65th birthday in Enrico, Sicily, at an annual international school on medieval law he has co-directed since 1993.

Antonio F. Perez, professor at the Columbus School of Law, accepts life membership on the Council of Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan think tank and research organization.

Ralph J. Rohrer, professor, Columbus School of Law, is elected to serve two years as president of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers, an association of attorneys experienced in consumer finance law. He is also elected to a third five-year term on the board of directors of the CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield program for the national capital area.

Cleo Ryn, professor of politics, addresses members of the Swedish parliament in Stockholm on “The Ups and Downs of American Conservatism.”

Daniel Szaflarski, lecturer of English, receives a Fulbright Scholarship to lecture on modern and contemporary poetry at Volgograd State University in Volgograd, Russia, during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Joseph Santo, assistant dean of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, receives the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Award in the Concert Music Division.

Murry Sillin, dean and professor of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, conducts the Julliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Andrew Simpson, associate professor of music, premiers his work, “A Crown of Stars,” a wedding anthem performed by the Thomas W. Pyle Treble Chorus. Simpson also releases a CD of chamber music titled “A Fairy and Still Night” (Cartoon Records).

Highlights

32

The Catholic University of America 2006–2007 Annual Report

33

Reason, Faith, Service
Highlights

Professor of English Ernest Suarez and more than 20 CUA students participate in an invitation-only performance by the Allman Brothers Band in New York City, the 10th year the professor and his “Poetry and Rock” class students have attended the show and met with band members.

Books


Travis Price, adjunct professor of architecture and planning, writes The Anthropology of Tomorrow: Architecture & the Spirit of Place (Mandala Publishing).

Ralph J. Rohrer, professor of law, and co-authors John A. Spanogle, Dee Frigden and Paul B. Razar complete the third edition of Consumer Law: Cases and Materials, a law school teaching text (Thomson-West).

Virgil Namias, professor of philosophy and W.J. Byrson Distinguished Professor of Literature, publishes Imperfection and Defeat: The Role of Aesthetic Imagination in Human Society (CEU Press), in which he argues that literature is a type of discourse that deals with defeat, loss and uncertainty in social life, in contrast with disciplines that afford certainties.

Janet A. Timbie, adjunct associate professor of Semitic and Egyptian languages, edits The World of Early Egyptian Christianity, with James E. Gammage. Other CUA professors contribute essays to the book, the second volume in the series CUA Studies in Early Christianity (CUA Press).

John F. Wippel, Theodore Bosselin Professor of Philosophy, writes Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas II (CUA Press).

Students

The CUA men’s basketball team wins the Capital Athletic Conference Tournament and receives an automatic bid to the Division III NCAA Tournament. This year marks the 10th consecutive season that the team has won at least 20 games.

Michele A. Schottenbauer, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, receives the Division 12 Excellence in Research Student Award from the Society of Clinical Psychology.

Samantha McCallan, rising junior, is one of 65 students nationwide selected as a 2006–07 Presidential Fellow by the Center for the Study of the Presidency.

Graduate students Alexandra Nunez and Cynthia Searcy are among 17 students awarded a 2006 scholarship by the Bryce Harlow Foundation, given annually to D.C.-area graduate students pursuing careers in government relations.

The Dalmarco Power Foundation awards undergraduate Christina Lessard a $10,000 scholarship, to be used toward her CUA tuition. The scholarship is given each year to select recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest recognition for a senior Girl Scout.

Kyla Gullings, a Catholic University student in the master’s program in composition with stage music emphasis, is selected as a composer fellow in the John Duffy Composers Institute at Old Dominion University.

In the weeks leading up to spring break, approximately 950 CUA students make a pledge to look out for their friends physically, emotionally and spiritually. The “I promise” campaign is jointly sponsored by the dean of students and Campus Ministry.

Alumni

Jim Diegner, B.A. 1982, takes over as president and CEO of the Washington Board of Trade.

President George W. Bush names Ed Gillespie, B.A. 1983, as new counselor to the president.

David Paterson, B.A. 1989, returns to Washington to share the soon-to-be-released Disney film Bridge to Terabithia, for which he wrote the screenplay, with fellow alumni.

Peggy A. Quince, J.D. 1975, justice of the Florida Supreme Court, receives a 2006 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award from the American Bar Association’s Commission on Women in the Profession.

At the invitation of Father O’Connell Academy Award–winning actor Jim Voight, B.A. 1960, returns to CUA for the first time since his graduation and visits with numerous students.


Junior biochemistry major Paul Kelley, of Weiss, Va., receives a United Negro College Fund/Mark Science Initiative award, one of 15 undergraduates nationwide to receive the award. The program targets students pursuing careers in scientific research.

Kenneth Stieglitz, a Ph.D. student in musicology, receives the Irving Lowens Award for Student Research from the Capital Chapter of the American Musicological Society for his paper, “Rameau and the ‘Noble Savage’: Interpreting Compositional Approaches to Les Sauvages.”

Best Buddies Maryland honors its CUA chapter with the Outstanding College Chapter of the Year Award. Best Buddies is an international organization that provides friendship and job opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.

34

The Catholic University of America 2006-2007 Annual Report

35

Financials

The university’s pattern of financial success continued in fiscal year 2007. The financial statements included in this annual report reflect the university’s financial growth and the strengthening of its balance sheet. The positive operating results have permitted the university to maintain continuously investments in people, programs and facilities.

Strategic Plan

Strong financial results are an integral component to growth and future financial success. The university’s focus on the future and on sustaining growth provided the impetus for the university’s new strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in December 2006. The strategic plan provides the blueprint for institutional decision-making and allocation of resources. The framework of the plan consists of five concentrations:

- Strengthening graduate studies
- Enhancing the undergraduate experience
- Improving facilities
- Improving staff functionality — human resources
- Raising national and international visibility and reputation

The university will use these five broad goals as a guide to manage specific priorities and set and control budgetary spending.

Financial Results

The university generated a positive operating net of $3.2 million and a nonoperating income of $2.2 million. Exhibit II shows the university’s sources of revenue, with net student tuition and fees constituting 58 percent of total revenues. Net tuition and fees increased by $77 million or 7 percent, primarily due to increased enrollment, along with a 5.6 percent increase in tuition rates. During fiscal year 2007, the university had the largest freshman class in its history with 856 new freshmen. Higher enrollment also contributed to the increase in auxiliary revenue from fiscal year 2006 by $40 million or 14 percent. Governmental grant activity increased from the prior fiscal year by $15 million or 8 percent.

Total revenues increased from fiscal year 2006 by $13.5 million or 8 percent. Exhibit II shows the university’s sources of revenue, with net student tuition and fees constituting 58 percent of total revenues. Net tuition and fees increased by $77 million or 7 percent, primarily due to increased enrollment, along with a 5.6 percent increase in tuition rates. During fiscal year 2007, the university had the largest freshman class in its history with 856 new freshmen. Higher enrollment also contributed to the increase in auxiliary revenue from fiscal year 2006 by $40 million or 14 percent. Governmental grant activity increased from the prior fiscal year by $15 million or 8 percent.

Expenses increased from fiscal year 2006 by $12.5 million or 8 percent. Exhibit III depicts the breakdown of the expenses by function. It is worth noting that 58 percent of these expenses either directly benefited students or were attributable to academic areas. Instruction and departmental research expenses for fiscal year 2007 were at 50 percent and student services were at 8 percent of total expenses. Exhibit IV shows expenses by type of expense, with the largest university expenditure being salary, wages and fringe benefits at 60 percent. As a result of the university’s commitment to recruiting and retaining the best faculty and staff, salaries and benefits increased from fiscal year 2006 by $6.0 million or 6 percent.

Endowment

The financial objective of the endowment is to provide stable and consistent revenue streams for current and future operating budgets. Part of this objective is the financial goal of preserving and enhancing the endowment fund’s inflation-adjusted purchasing power. The university’s endowment spending policy provides that 5 percent of the trailing 12-quarter average of the market value of the endowment be allocated to the operating budget, thereby carefully balancing the need for current support with future needs.

The market value of the endowment was $208.6 million at the end of March 2007. Since inception (June 1994) there has been an increase of $140.8 million in the market value of the endowment as shown in Exhibit V. The endowment’s annual return for the year ending March 31, 2007, was 9.4 percent. Over a 13-year period, the cumulative return of the endowment was 10.4 percent.

Investment in Facilities

During fiscal year 2007, the university took important steps in the improvement of facilities. It held a groundbreaking ceremony in March 2007 for the new student residence hall to be known as Opus Hall. A 123,660-square-foot building that will be located on the northeast corner of the university’s main campus and have 402 beds, Opus Hall was financed by a generous donation and District of Columbia Revenue Bonds. Even with this additional debt, the university maintained its credit rating by both Moody’s (A2) and Standard & Poor’s (A).

The university’s athletic facilities continue to be improved and enhanced. Major projects include a new football field, track, a new baseball field and stands, and a new softball field. A generous gift by the Knights of Columbus will enable the university to renovate Keane Hall. The building will be renamed McGivney Hall in honor of Rev. Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus.

The past year was a time for planning and change, and for celebrating the remarkable progress the university has achieved. During the next several years, the campus will undergo many physical changes. The quality of student life will continue to improve as resources are invested in providing the students with a fulfilling educational experience. The university is looking to the future with confidence in its financial stability, sound management and the ability to meet the challenges ahead.

The university has developed an investment policy that over time will produce attractive returns with lower volatility. The investment policy is focused on long-term return relative to the level of risk taken. The asset allocation strategy as provided in Exhibit VI for fiscal year 2007 remains unchanged from fiscal year 2006. The university has been successful in hiring top investment managers with strategies to add the most value to the investment goal.

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$23,242</td>
<td>$19,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student fees and other, net of allowance</td>
<td>4,447</td>
<td>4,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. government and other agencies, net of allowance</td>
<td>4,253</td>
<td>3,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes and student loans receivable, net of allowance</td>
<td>8,512</td>
<td>9,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>15,903</td>
<td>8,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>239,004</td>
<td>220,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits with bond trustee</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred charges and other assets</td>
<td>4,737</td>
<td>4,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>169,049</td>
<td>175,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in perpetual trusts</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>2,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$472,171</td>
<td>$448,963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities:**

| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $20,557    | $18,187    |
| Deferred revenues, student deposits and other liabilities | 4,275      | 3,740      |
| Refundable advances from the U.S. government | 6,374      | 6,250      |
| Split-interest agreements | 1,098      | 1,105      |
| Asset retirement obligations | 8,486      | 16,631     |
| Indebtedness | 91,086     | 94,392     |
| **Total liabilities** | $131,876   | $140,305   |

**Net assets:**

| Unrestricted | $210,590   | $189,395   |
| Temporarily restricted | 55,375     | 46,949     |
| Permanently restricted | 74,330     | 72,314     |
| **Total net assets** | $340,295   | $308,658   |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | $472,171   | $448,963   |

Consolidated Statements of Activities (in thousands) — For the years ended April 30, 2006 and 2007.

**Operating Revenues and Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student tuition and fees, net</td>
<td>$104,804</td>
<td>$97,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal and private grants and contracts</td>
<td>21,599</td>
<td>20,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>12,457</td>
<td>11,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment return designated for current operations</td>
<td>8,080</td>
<td>8,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and services of departments</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>1,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises</td>
<td>30,105</td>
<td>26,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating revenues</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating revenues and support</strong></td>
<td>$180,874</td>
<td>$167,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operating Expenses**

**Educational and general:**

| Instruction and departmental research | 89,026     | 82,530     |
| Sponsored research                  | 14,064     | 13,844     |
| Public service                      | 2,260      | 2,139      |
| Libraries                           | 11,507     | 11,265     |
| Student services                    | 13,862     | 13,270     |
| Institutional support               | 21,988     | 21,108     |
| **Total educational and general expenses** | 152,707    | 144,156    |
| Auxiliary enterprises               | 24,984     | 21,080     |
| **Total operating expenses**        | $177,691   | $165,236   |
| **Change in net assets from operations** | $3,183     | $2,139     |

**Nonoperating Activities**

| Contributions        | 12,393     | 8,168      |
| Investment return in excess of amounts designated for current operations | 13,982     | 22,547     |
| Changes in the value of split interest agreements | 974        | 280        |
| Other nonoperating gains | 1,098      | 74         |
| **Change in net assets from nonoperating activities** | $28,434    | $31,069    |
| **Change in net assets before cumulative effect of a change in an accounting principle** | $31,637    | $33,208    |
| **Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle** | -          | (8,810)    |
| **Increase in net assets** | $31,637    | $24,398    |
| **Net assets at beginning of year** | $308,658   | $284,260   |
| **Net assets at end of year** | $340,295   | $308,658   |
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Effective September 2007

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