

# first

THE MAGAZINE  
OF CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2021

## THE CARROLL PLAYERS' 125TH ANNIVERSARY:

Alumni Reflect on a Long Legacy

## Going Green

Sustainability Takes  
Root in Carroll's Culture



# Art & Nature


Students Combine Science and  
Creativity in Unique Collaboration



FORWARD







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# Courting Normality

Life off the basketball court might have looked very different this year, but on the court, it was still wins and losses.

Guard Theresa Wischer readied a move at a home game earlier this year at the Ted Baker Basketball Court in Van Male Field House. The Pioneers finished with seven wins and six losses and Wischer, a junior, set a school record for most three point shots made in a career.



# first

FIRST Magazine tells the stories of pioneers, of Wisconsin's first university and of the resolute, creative and fearless men and women who push it forward—the alumni, students, faculty and staff of Carroll University—through truly pioneering content and design.

Carroll University is Wisconsin's first four-year institution of higher learning. This independent, co-educational comprehensive university is grounded in the Presbyterian heritage and liberal arts tradition. The Office of Marketing and Communications publishes **FIRST** for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editors or the official policies of Carroll University. We welcome your comments to [editor@carrollu.edu](mailto:editor@carrollu.edu)



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A new committee manifests Carroll's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

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Student learning through others' lived experiences.

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Alumni reflect on the legacy of the Carroll Players as the group marks its 125th anniversary.

#### On the cover

Dragonfly illustration by Olivia Kermer, from the book, "Nature Through a Student's Eyes," a collaborative effort by Carroll students. For more on the project, see the article on page 5.



#### Please recycle this magazine.

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## As we usher in a new spring season, we are reminded of the transitions that come with this season of rebirth, renewal and change.

At Carroll, we are excited to forge a new beginning with hope, as we return to a vibrant campus community imbued with laughter, chatter, gatherings and celebration of our 175th anniversary. We are happy to assist the county of Waukesha toward our goal of herd immunity from COVID-19 by becoming an approved vaccinator site and stepping up in other ways, as we always have, to ensure the health and safety of our campus members, and the community at large.

During this season of renewal, many other things around us are starting to bloom in combination with nature and becoming anew with vigor and vitality as we move closer to a post-pandemic world. Even right here at Carroll, we are breathing new life into our programs, introducing new staff, taking on new sustainability efforts, and much more to be revealed in the pages that follow.

While our future is promising at Carroll and worthy of recognition, we also pay tribute to our past in this issue, and sharing some key highlights such as our 2021 Founders' Day speaker, David Laatsch '95, who shared an inspiring message at our event to help celebrate our dodransbicentennial. We are also celebrating another anniversary on our campus this year – The Carroll Players! Wisconsin's first active student theater organization was founded in 1896 and turns 125 this year. We'll take a look back, through the voices of our alumni.

Our work in the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) space continues to be a priority and in this issue you will meet our new director of multicultural affairs, Amber May. Carroll is also introducing a new graduate program this fall in behavioral health psychology. This new program allows us to prepare students to fill a growing need in our society to provide and increase access to essential behavioral health services.

Pioneers, we have much to celebrate, including 175 years of educating and shaping the promising futures of our students. We hope you will explore our list of celebration events over the next year and mark your calendar to attend most, if not all. As we celebrate this important milestone, we also have our eyes set on the next big event, Carroll's bicentennial. Together, we can continue to innovate and move the university forward, preparing students for our ever-changing world.

Thank you for being our partner on this journey.

CU Soon!

*Cindy Brodinger*

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Laatsch '95 Emphasizes Stewardship

# Founders' Day

"...we are also stewards of students who are going into the world with what I believe is the most important element of the 'special sauce' and that is the critical thinking skills that comes from an education rooted in the Carroll ethos.

"These students as (Thomas Jefferson put it, are 'rooted in morality and knowledge' and are equipped to question, to look deeper in search of the truth. They understand

that a challenge to their belief is an opportunity to better understand someone else's point of view, to find common ground and deepen their own understanding of an issue. Unfortunately, we have been reminded recently of how important and necessary these skills remain."

Founders' Day is held each year within a few days of the anniversary of the university's founding in 1846 and is an

opportunity for the campus community to celebrate its heritage. Laatsch, a current board member, has a long legacy connection with the university, reaching back to his great-grandfather, William Ganfield, Carroll's president in the 1920s and '30s.



David Laatsch '95, speaking at Carroll's Founders' Day event in late January.



## Join Us As We Celebrate Our 175th Anniversary

Carroll University is excited to celebrate our 175th Anniversary this year. A series of events have been planned that will involve students, alumni and the entire Carroll community. We hope you can join us at many of the events to help us celebrate this milestone in our history. Keep an eye out for a calendar of events for our 175th Anniversary that will appear on our website soon. Stay tuned for updates on planned activities. Here are some of the highlights:

### May:

**May 8** Commencement

### August:

**August 23** CU Together Fall Semester Kickoff on Campus

**August 27** Opening Convocation, Shattuck Auditorium

### September:

**September 25** Fred McMurray Movie Night at Schneider Stadium

### October:

**October 9 & 10** Waukesha Doors Unlocked

**October 14-17** Carroll University Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

### November:

**November 12** CU Giving Thanks Event

**November 30** CU Merry & Bright #175GivingTuesday



# #GivingTuesday One-day Campaign Shatters Goal

The Power of Participation added up to nearly \$130,000 in donations to help Carroll students during our December's #GivingTuesday campaign.

With the help of **228 donors**,  
we raised a grand total of

# \$129,904.



University officials had hoped to raise \$80,000 during the one-day global event.

"We were delighted by the number of alumni, parents and friends who participated in #GivingTuesday," said Victoria Dowling, vice president for institutional advancement.

This was the university's fourth year of participation in #GivingTuesday, which promotes charitable giving worldwide for colleges, non-profits and organizations primarily through social media and collaboration with supporters. This year, Carroll included donations to benefit scholarships

and also The Carroll Fund, which is critical to Carroll's mission. The Carroll Fund directly supports areas that include classroom upgrades, technology infrastructure, assisting student organizations, and attracting top-notch faculty.

More than \$48 million is awarded annually in institutional aid to students with the help of scholarship support generated, in part, by #GivingTuesday as well as endowed scholarships and other annual fundraising efforts. One hundred percent of Carroll's students receive some form of financial aid.



Pardeep Singh Kaleka

**Pardeep Singh Kaleka** will serve as Carroll's 2021 commencement speaker on Saturday, May 8. Kaleka is the executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, published author of "The Gifts of Our Wounds," and a clinician specializing in trauma-informed care, treating survivors and perpetrators of assault, abuse and acts of violence. During the ceremony, he will receive an honorary doctorate.

A native of Punjab, India, Kaleka grew up in Milwaukee and served as a police officer and educator in the inner city of Milwaukee until the shooting at the Sikh Temple in 2012, where a white supremacist took the lives of seven parishioners, one of them being his father and temple founder. In the aftermath, fighting through his own grief, Kaleka felt called to help the community heal and to live out his passion of transformational love.

## Nature Through a Student's Eyes

Last fall, students from three different courses across campus joined for a unique collaborative project, "Nature Through a Student's Eyes," a short book of illustrated essays about the ecology of Wisconsin's flora and fauna.

Students in an ecology class taught by Dr. Susan Lewis developed the essays, working with students from Dr. Tim Galow's advanced exposition and rhetoric class. The essays were then shared with Amy Cropper's drawing and composition class. Essays covered, among other topics, monarch migration, parasitic botflies, cardinals and how dragonflies stay cool. Our cover image, by Olivia Kermer, illustrated that essay, excerpted here.

"The position that this dragonfly has taken on the fallen branch is called the obelisk posture, and it is an important aspect of the ability for dragonflies to control their body temperature. This posture was named in reference to the architectural design of a stone pillar...and dragonflies position their bodies in this manner to help cool down their body when internal temperatures are high. When the sun reaches its highest point in the sky, the long and slender bodies of the dragonflies are more heavily exposed to the sun's rays. To help diminish the amount of heat that their body is absorbing, dragonflies will assume the obelisk pose to reduce the amount of heat their body absorbs from the sun. Thermoregulation among dragonflies is highly evolved and the effect of this response on a species level is important to consider. In a study done by Michael May, a researcher at Rutgers University, dragonflies that were more active in mating areas were found to have a high capacity to regulate their temperature. Thus, this process of thermoregulation also affects a dragonfly's chance of successfully finding a mate and producing offspring."



- From the essay "Thermoregulation: The Dragonfly Way,"  
by Brendan Charette, edited by Angela Stein





Amber May joined Carroll near the end of 2020, as director of multicultural affairs.

## MULTICULTURAL SHIFT

### Amber May Advocates for Inclusion

#### Why did you want to work at Carroll?

I graduated from Anderson University, which is similar to Carroll in its culture, size and demographics. From a diversity standpoint, we definitely had our challenges. But as a smaller institution, we were uniquely positioned to provide more intimate settings and build lifelong friendships. In researching Carroll, I realized many of the same attributes existed here.

#### Why does diversity matter?

It is my personal belief that having different cultures in an environment is a privilege. When an environment embraces and displays inclusion, in its actions and policies, a culture shift happens, and diversity becomes a natural byproduct of those efforts. Diversity begins to show up in all of the ways we engage with all of our community members, organically.

#### What does your office do?

My office has three goals:

- To celebrate all of the ways in which we are different.
- To educate the campus community through workshops, lectures and community outreach.
- To advocate, helping the community grow in our ability to strive for an equitable environment.

#### What are your goals for Multicultural Affairs?

I would like the Office of Multicultural Affairs to be seen as a sounding board to engage around difficult topics, a safe space where you can authentically be yourself, and an exciting space to learn about others.

## HONORS HALL

### Charles Street Hall Becomes Home to Honors Students

Carroll's honors program offers students a place to cultivate their passions, develop critical and system-thinking skills and spark their intellectual and emotional development. This year, it has also provided a home to more than two dozen honors students.

Charles Street Hall, which was transformed back into a residence hall in 2019, has become a Living Learning Community for Honors Society students. Though capacity for the building was reduced this year due to the pandemic, 26 first-year honors students spent the academic year at Charles Street Hall in what the honors program is calling the Honors Halls of Residence.

Living Learning Communities, or LLCs, bring together students with a common interest under one roof, often focusing on a specific major. The Honors LLC unites Honors first-year students from across all disciplines, though they all share common Honors classes. According to Dr. Massimo Rondolino, associate professor of philosophy and associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences – Honors Center, the LLC is another way to build camaraderie among Honors Program participants.

Katie Jensen said living in the hall helped her acclimate to school and make friends. "I know almost everybody here. That feeling of belonging is so crucial."

This year has seen the growth of the Honors Council, a five-member student panel that helps organize Honors activities, as Rondolino and Honors Center staff work to elevate the Honors Program at Carroll.



Honors students gather in one of the hall's collaborative spaces.





Dr. Timothy Suchomel

# Sport Performance Institute Launches

A new Sport Performance Institute at Carroll will provide valuable practical educational experiences for graduate students and offer student-athletes state-of-the-art training opportunities.

The Carroll University Sport Performance Institute (CUSPI), launched in March, is a partnership between College of Health Science's faculty and students, and the athletics program. Over time, CUSPI will also extend its reach to serve the surrounding community.

"The CUSPI's research and practical work cover a range of activities such as testing and monitoring Carroll athletes, educating sport scientists and coaches, and completing applied and translational research projects," said Tim Suchomel, institute director and internationally known speaker. Suchomel is also an assistant professor of exercise science and the program director for the Master of Science in Sport Physiology and Performance Coaching.

The institute's work will be a benefit to student-athletes. Their performance will be assessed regularly throughout the year, with the information from these testing sessions used to design training programs that target weaknesses and build upon athletes' strengths. Student-athletes will continue to be monitored throughout their athletic careers at Carroll.

"This is a unique approach to developing performance that marries academics and sport performance with athletics. Very few universities pursue this opportunity, especially at the Division III level. This is a unique initiative and there is nothing else like this in the state," Suchomel said.

"The launch of the CUSPI is an important step in connecting Carroll faculty expertise and technology with the broader community," said Tom Pahnke, dean of the College of Health Science.

"It provides an opportunity for individuals interested in improving athletic performance to benefit from high-tech applications previously reserved for elite or professional athletes."

"Although the primary goal is to take care of our athletes, eventually we want to offer similar opportunities to community high schools, private gyms and sport clubs," Suchomel explained.

Working in the institute will be part of students' education in the sports physiology and performance coaching graduate program. "The students will gain hands-on experience with athletes as assistant human performance coaches and deliver data to sports coaches in usable forms so they can make evidence-based training decisions," Suchomel said. "Metrics such as relative strength, speed, power and conditioning status are used to form individual athlete profiles and this information will be used to guide our training decisions."



THE REV. ELIZABETH McCORD  
**CHRISTO ET LITTERIS**

*For Christ and Learning is the English translation of "Christo et Litteris," Carroll University's motto*

# Discovering the deeper wisdom of grace and gratitude

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

—John 1:14

The Covid-19 pandemic has not passed by the Carroll campus. Like so many communities around the world, we have had losses in our Carroll family: parents, grandparents, alumni, extended relations and friends. The pandemic also brought the loss of two beloved faculty



THE REV.  
 McCORD

members. Professor Kelly Lynn Raether passed away on November 26, 2020. It was Thanksgiving Day, and she was 42 years old. Weeks later, on New Year's Day, Kelly was joined in eternity by her dear friend and colleague, Dr. James Joseph LaRosa. Jim was 44.

Kelly and Jim were both faculty members in Carroll's nationally renowned nursing program. As registered nurses and practitioners in the field, both placed patient care above all else and taught from personal experience.

Each had served in a variety of health care settings. Jim, for instance, had worked in hospice care. Kelly not only taught at Carroll but was also an EMT Captain with the Ixonia Fire Department. Both were deeply rooted in our local community and fiercely committed to service. Each modeled lifelong learning, striving for academic excellence and enhancing their teaching through their own educational goals. Jim had recently earned his doctorate, and Kelly was actively pursuing her own. They both loved to teach, and it showed.

For students, Jim and Kelly were more than bearers of knowledge. They were trusted confidants, life coaches, professional mentors and personal role models. At our campus memorial service, nursing students reflected on the ways Kelly and Jim touched their lives, making them work harder and strive to be the best students, nurses and people they could be. Students spoke of their professors' caring nature, of their open offices and hearts, and their genuine and generous spirits. Jim and Kelly's legacy will be lasting, as the echoes of their wisdom will reverberate through their former students and the lives of every patient those alumni serve.

Loss is painful, and there has been so much loss in the world. The coronavirus has passed over us like an angel of death, stealing away the breath of many, taking one and leaving another. Now, as warm rays of hope begin to break through, we cautiously emerge blinking and a bit stunned. The world is not as it was. We are not as we were. We will have to relearn how to be together.

Honoring those we have lost will help us get there. The stories we share, the memories we carry, will help us position our pain in a longer narrative of healing. We will have to spend time looking back in order to find our way forward, and the lessons from loss will continue to unfold well into our future. And all of this will take time...I suspect much more time than we'd like. Grief always takes longer than we'd like. But if we can together be students of our grief and learners in the classroom of loss, we will discover the deeper wisdom of grace and gratitude that gives rhythm to our days and meaning to our lives.

## Service Held for Faculty

A Service of Remembrance was held in February to honor nursing faculty Kelly Raether and Dr. Jim LaRosa, who passed away this winter from COVID-19 complications.

Raether was lecturer of nursing/clinical education coordinator at Carroll. She also served as Vice President of Sigma International Honor Society of Nursing—Tau Mu Chapter. She was also a 15-year member of the Ixonia Fire Department and most recently served as an emergency medical services captain.

LaRosa was a clinical assistant professor of nursing, joining the Carroll community in 2016. He was a member of Wisconsin League for Nursing, and a faculty advisor to GSA-Gender and Sexuality Alliance.



Dr. Jim LaRosa



Kelly Raether



# New Graduate Programs Added



Dr. Jessica Lahner

## PSYCHOLOGY

### New Program Aims to Address Behavioral Health Issues

Carroll University is helping to address the severe shortage of mental health professionals by offering a new Master of Science in Behavioral Health Psychology this fall. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, only 32 percent of Wisconsin’s needs are being met by mental health practitioners.

“Mental Health has taken center stage in our country, and it is important that Carroll continues to step up to address the growing needs within our communities. This new program allows us to train our students to provide essential behavioral health services that will help fill the gap, and increase access to mental health resources where they are most scarce,” said Carroll President Cindy Gnadinger.

The program is designed to meet the needs of today’s students by offering a flexible, hybrid format, which features a mix of in-person and online work.

“We wanted to develop an accessible program for those who need flexibility while retaining the face-to-face application and skill practice so important in the human services,” Program Director Dr. Jessica Lahner said. “Students digest course content during the week on their own time. Application and skill development

occurs in the classroom with peers and faculty two weekends each month.”

Students will be able to specialize in one of four concentrations: clinical assessment, adult and geriatric behavioral health, youth behavioral health or applied research.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness (51.5 million in 2019). Graduates of this new program will be equipped to meet this growing need.

“We will provide training, inspired by the scientist-practitioner model that prepares graduates for careers as counselors or to pursue doctoral degrees in psychology,” Lahner said. “Cultural compassion and evidenced-based practice are at the forefront of our training model.”

All students will be required to accrue at least 1,300 clinical hours in the program, and Carroll will work with them to secure placements aligned with their chosen concentration areas.

## MBA CERTIFICATES Graduate Programs Offer Targeted Professional Development

Business professionals seeking graduate-level development opportunities will be able to fine-tune their education with six new graduate

### The six certificate programs:

- Business Analytics
- Business Management
- Financial and Supply Chain Management
- Healthcare Administration
- Healthcare Data Analytics
- Healthcare Informatics and Technology

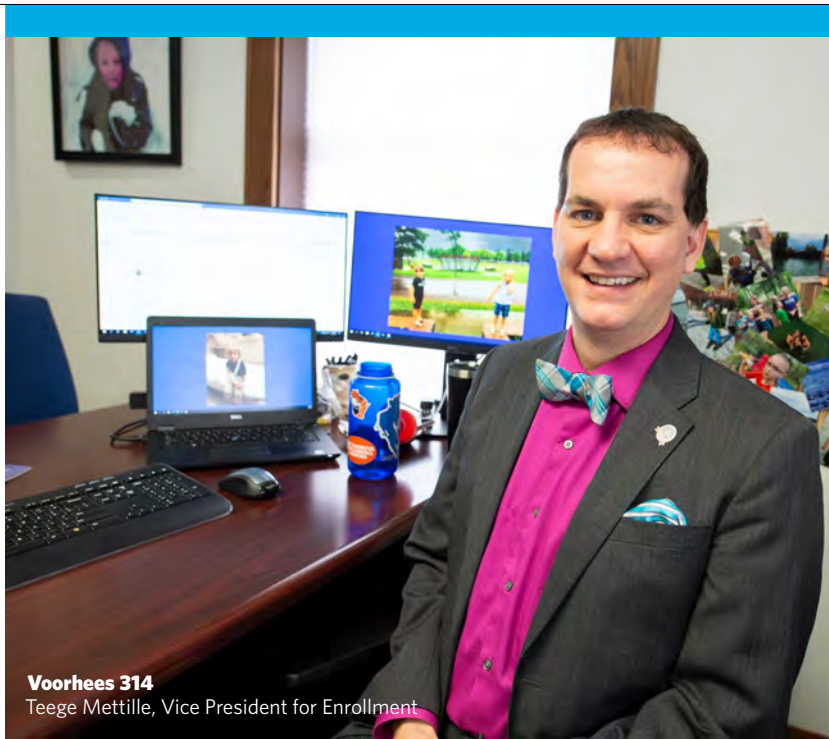
certificate programs offered by the Carroll University School of Business.

Each of the new certificates is comprised of four 3-credit courses that zero in on specific in-demand subjects and were developed in response to real-world needs. With new offerings starting every eight weeks, professionals can focus their studies and move at their own pace. These tailored programs offer opportunities to use study and solve workplace issues – providing students and their employers with immediate practical advantages.

The certificate programs also offer a way to “ease into” an MBA. Certain certificate programs may be paired or combined with other courses from the graduate business program to create a truly individualized MBA.

CARROLL UNIVERSITY





**Voorhees 314**  
Teege Mettillle, Vice President for Enrollment

## Story on Student Earns an Emmy

As a university, we're pretty used to things being awarded - scholarships, grants, conference championships and the like. An Emmy, though, well, that is a bit out of the norm.

The story of Anthony Sikorski, a Presidential Scholar who was accepted by Carroll University as a first-year student at age 14, earned a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for a local television station late last year. The segment was produced for TMJ4-TV's "Positively Milwaukee" show by anchor/reporter Carole Meekins and photojournalists Mark Was, Mark Wirtz and editor Jeff Morris. The piece won for Outstanding Achievement for News Specialty Report/Series - Education/Schools.

"Anthony inspired me in a way I will never forget," Meekins said. "He's in a class all by himself. He is warm, inviting and overwhelmingly optimistic." After interviewing him, she added: "I knew I was in the presence of greatness."



Anthony Sikorski



## Office Hours

If you're a Carroll alumni, you have people like Teege Mettillle to thank. Mettillle is Carroll's vice president for enrollment. From this position, he oversees admissions and enrollment efforts, including traditional and international undergraduate admissions, transfer/non-traditional admissions, an expanding program in graduate admissions and other market segments. Mettillle arrived at Carroll with considerable experience in admissions at several other Wisconsin educational institutions, particularly in driving diversity and inclusion efforts.



### Supporting Student Artists

The green vase was purchased at a student art sale at Lawrence University, where Mettillle worked previously.



### Southwestern Art

Mettillle loves southwestern art. This handcrafted bowl was purchased during a trip to New Mexico.



### Smile!

The photo collage of his son, Logan, is updated annually, a process Mettillle says gets harder every year.



Carroll University School of Business

# Professional Development Your Way

## **Six New Graduate Certificate Programs.**

These graduate certificate programs have been created to give professionals like you the flexibility to target your educational experience. Each one features four, 3-credit courses targeting in-demand disciplines. You'll learn critical theory and employ it in individualized projects that relate directly to issues you're facing at work. That means the concepts you learn can be applied directly to your current job, benefiting both you and your employer immediately. It's the practical advantage of a Carroll business education.

Your certificate course credits can even be applied toward an MBA. Further, certain certificates may be paired or combined with additional courses from the graduate business program to create an individualized MBA.

## **Your journey is just beginning!**

### **Graduate Certificate Programs in Business**

- Business Analytics
- Business Management
- Financial and Supply Chain Management
- Healthcare Administration
- Healthcare Data Analytics
- Healthcare Informatics and Technology

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**For more information about these certificates and how they can help you or your organization, please contact:**

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# color green



Single stream recycling bins, located in residence halls and campus buildings, accept metal, glass, paper, plastic and cardboard in a single receptacle, making recycling as easy as possible.

Sustainability has a new home at Carroll University. This past year, a standing committee comprised of faculty, staff and student representation began exploring issues of sustainability on the campus.

The committee replaces, formalizes and elevates work that began several years ago by what had been called a Green Task Force. The issue's importance at Carroll should be clear: both the Carroll Ethos, a declaration of the university's guiding beliefs, and Pioneer Driven, Carroll University's strategic plan places strong emphases on environmental issues.

Indeed, there are significant developments across the university already, ways big and small that a new culture of sustainability has taken root here. On the roof of Kilgour Hall, 52 solar panels soak up energy and provide a portion of the building's energy needs as well as creates a slight reduction in greenhouse emissions. Those panels were installed in 2018, one of the initiatives of the Green Task Force.







*This Polaris GEM, **bottom, left-hand corner**, is one of two small electric vehicles now in use at Carroll. **Above left**, workers installed solar panels on the roof of Kilgour Hall. **Top right**, the green roof at Hastad Hall absorbs rainwater and reduces the building's cooling needs. **Bottom right**, work continues throughout the year to remove invasive buckthorn at Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center.*

Several buildings away, Hastad Hall boasts a green roof that helps minimize storm-water runoff and reduces the roof's heat absorption. Hastad was the first university building to receive LEED-certification, an international standard for environmental sustainability in design and build. In new buildings and renovations, lighting systems automatically turn off lights in unused spaces, further saving resources. Outside, the facilities department staff now use two electric-powered Polaris GEM vehicles to move about campus. The vehicles operate entirely on electric power and produce zero emissions.

Across the campus, numerous, less noticeable changes are occurring, according to committee co-chairs Jenna Gatzke and Dr. Charlie Byler. Byler is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Gatzke is the coordinator of the Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center. They both point to the second section of Carroll's strategic plan, which calls for the university to commit to,

and sustain, a culture of environmental accountability as proof of the importance of their committee's work. Water bottle filling stations have replaced or joined water fountains across campus in an effort to reduce the purchase of bottled water. This year, the committee has created three subcommittees, which deal with waste reduction and recycling, land stewardship, and planning and organization, which focuses on longer-term issues.

Gatzke said land stewardship is a big focus at Prairie Springs, where efforts are underway to eradicate invasive buckthorn and also to establish a native prairie on land at Greene Field Station on the east end of the property. The environmental center is a natural location for educational efforts, noted Byler. "Prairie Springs can be a focus point for education about sustainability for our students, for community members, and for school children."

What changes do Gatzke and Byler envision to the campus a few years down the line, due to the committee's work and recommendations? More green spaces; an adoption of more sustainable lawn care practices, such as natural pesticides; a reduced emphasis on lawns and more space given over to native plantings such as prairies; a greater use of solar energy, perhaps with the use of solar-powered lights lining walkways; more electric vehicles in the university's fleet; abundant and easily identifiable recycling containers throughout campus; and finally, a successful education campaign helping students and staff adopt more sustainable practices. A successful education campaign helping students and staff adopt more sustainable practices, too.

"It's really satisfying," said Byler. "I can't say that of a lot of the committees I've been on! In the long run, this work will make a difference." 🌱

# Student Wellness Resources Find a Common Home

A historic building at 304 N. East Ave. will soon become the hub for student health and wellness at Carroll University. Most recently Red Rose antiques, the structure was sold by its owners to Carroll after it was damaged by straight-line winds in June 2019.

Once the interior transformations are complete, the three-floor, 10,500-square-foot Carroll University Center for Student Life and Wellness will bring together health, counseling and other student services in one location.

“We carefully considered the best use for the East Avenue property. ‘Enriching the Carroll Experience’ is a key part of our strategic plan, and this aligns with our goal to improve student support services,” said Carroll University President, Dr. Cindy Gnadinger.

The Student Health Center will be on the first floor, with four exam rooms, a nurses station and nurses prep area, a reception/waiting area and offices for the health center’s director and for Student Conduct and Violence Prevention staff.

The second floor will include offices for residence life, student life, project and budget analysis, conference and waiting rooms and will be the home of the Walter Young Center.

The lower level will house accessibility services, conference rooms, an area for alternative testing, a meditation room, a break room and a vending area.

“We have heard from students they would like more of a central location for these services. This building illustrates we are listening to their needs and meeting them,” said Theresa Barry, vice president for student affairs. “We’re planning more focus on wellness and well-being, and may want to do some education to help students understand how certain behaviors impact their physical and mental health, and to look at ways for them to manage stress.”



**“Enriching the Carroll Experience is a key part of our strategic plan, and this aligns with our goal to improve student support services.”**

– Carroll University President,  
Dr. Cindy Gnadinger

Pam Dolata, nurse practitioner and director of the Student Health Center said, “It definitely will be more convenient for students because it will be one-stop shopping. Mental health problems sometimes present as physical symptoms and, with Walter Young counselors being in the same building, it will be easier for students to find services under one roof. Other times, student patients may have needs related to their housing situation and they can visit residence life. It will help coordinate services better.”

Angie Brennan, Carroll’s director of counseling, said the renovated building will offer students and staff many advantages. “Students will be going to a central location for



Rezoning of the property was approved recently by the Common Council. Tentative opening is set for August 2021.



View of 'The Pharm' in the 1930s.

## Building Has Long Carroll Ties

*The building that will house the new Center for Student Life and Wellness at 304 N. East Ave., has been an integral part of Carroll history for decades.*

Affectionately known as **'The Pharm,'** it was a much loved gathering place for students in the '30s, with many alumni remembering it as the hangout that sold nickel sodas.

When strong storms ripped through the neighborhood on June 29, 2019, there was significant damage to buildings and trees, including this structure. So when the chimney fell into the building, Jim and Marge Hoppe, who had owned it for 35 years, decided to sell it to Carroll. At the time of the storm, it was the home to the Hoppes' Red Rose Antiques, Pathfinding Book Store and The Book Cafe, as well as several residential units.

According to the Waukesha County Historical Society, the building was the Carroll College pharmacy from approximately 1934-1938, with Julius S. White serving as the registered pharmacist at the time.

The site became part of the McCall Street Historic District in 1993. In recent years, the university has bought and renovated other historic homes and buildings along Wright Street, College Avenue and East Avenue to be used for programming, student services and offices.

**For more information on the Center for Student Life and Wellness, or to make a gift, please contact Victoria Dowling, vice president of institutional advancement at [vdowling@carrollu.edu](mailto:vdowling@carrollu.edu).**

resources, and counseling refers to many of those resources. We refer to accessibility services, and they refer to us a lot," she said. "There are times when a student might meet with us and determine they need to visit the health center. Now they can simply walk downstairs and schedule an appointment."

She added: "It will be a change, but a great change for counseling. We will still have a suite of offices. We will be on the second floor, with a waiting room for appointments, and we will still have a meditation room on the lower level. Often after students are educated about mindfulness and meditation, they book our meditation room outside of a counseling appointment."

The room is well-stocked with essential oils, diffusers, a sand tray, adult coloring books and a computer for students to listen to podcasts or their own music. At the new site, with a conference room on the same floor, there's the opportunity for group counseling.

Brennan is looking forward to the new home for her department. "I'm excited about the space because it's going to work very well for students," she said.



# Carroll Convocations

Every semester, Carroll students have the opportunity to attend convocations coordinated by the university. The course catalog identifies the convocation attendance requirement as: "Each year the academic community gathers to consider contemporary issues and enduring questions to honor individual and collective achievement, and to celebrate a shared vision and values. Attendance at two of the college's convocations is required of all full-time students each year."

**This past winter, the university held two convocations that were well received and popular among our students.**

## Activism, Violence and Politics in the U.S.

On February 22, Carroll's academic community gathered to discuss and to reflect on these historic events of January 2021– the January 6 insurrection, the January 13 impeachment of former President Donald J. Trump, and the January 20 inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden.

Each panelist took turns addressing the moderator's questions from their unique perspective, and then took questions from the online audience. The event was held to allow students and other members of the Carroll community to reflect on these moments through a historical lens, and also to hear different points of view from individuals with different political perspectives. "We felt this was an important, timely and relevant topic. It was important for us to create a space where our students and the broader community could begin to process the events of January 2021," said Blegen. "It was also important to promote understanding of each of these individual events in context and how they, together, impacted our democracy."

"Additionally, the overall goal of this convocation was for students to critically evaluate political issues from multiple perspectives in hopes that they will begin to see how shared understanding can be created."



**Provost Dr. Mark Blegen led an online panel comprised of:**

- **Dr. Lilly Goren**, chair of the Department of History and Political Science who spoke to what we might want to consider as we think about these interconnected events.



- **Dr. Charles Byler**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences who spoke to how opposition has played a role in our national politics.



- **Rev. Elizabeth McCord**, the university chaplain who spoke to the religious aspects of the events and spirituality of activism.



- **Dr. Hamid Akbari**, dean of the School of Business who spoke about his personal experience of living through the Iranian revolution in 1979 and how that relates to current events.



In honor of Black History Month and Women’s History Month, Carroll University hosted an online event called “The Black SHERO Panel.” The event showcased black women leaders who work at Carroll, or who are alumna or students of the university. According to the event coordinators, the event was to honor and to celebrate the different aspects of black womanhood that Carroll University colleagues and former and current students represent. It was also to honor their unique experiences and achievements as black women in the Carroll community.

“This was an event to hold honest conversations and to build trust between the attendees and panelists,” said Kanoe Montaño, coordinator for the Office of Violence Prevention at Carroll University.

“We hope the event served as a celebratory and healing space created specifically for and by black women. Every panelist added insightful information to the discussion, and were open about their individual experiences, accomplishments and challenges.”



**The panelists featured were:**



**Christina Ogunnubi,** student, Class of 2022.



**Chamia (Foster) Gary '98,** Alumna and program manager for the Clinical & Translational Science Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin.



**Zonzerrias McGowin '99,** Alumna and professional healthcare specialist.



**Dionna Gavin '05,** Alumna and organizational development business partner at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.



**Symone Baldwin '16,** Alumna and human resources business partner for Carroll University.



**Amber May,** director of multicultural affairs at Carroll University.



**Tori Sinclair,** director of academic advising services for Carroll University.

# Pioneers Honor Track and Field Hall of Famer Stephen Sippy

By Jeff Hagenau

Throughout the course of his prolific collegiate career, Steve Sippy '63 built a lasting reputation for taking each challenge in stride, maintaining a positive attitude, leading by example and running hard to the finish line.

With his trademark beaming smile, humble-selfless demeanor and relentless, instinctive drive for success, he left an indelible mark as one of the best in the history of the Carroll University men's cross country/track and field programs.

Sippy, a 1963 graduate of Carroll (College) and 1976 Carroll Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee, passed away at age 79 on March 10, 2021, from pancreatic cancer.

To honor the memory of the legendary former athlete and proud alumnus, the athletic department dedicated its annual Carroll Alumni Invitational (outdoor track and field competition), which was held at the Dennis Panches Track and Field Complex Saturday, March 27, in his honor.

At Carroll, Sippy competed in the 440, 880, mile run, two-mile run, broad jump and relay events. He finished his stand-out career with the Pioneers as a six-time conference champion, eight-time top-four College Conference of Illinois-Wisconsin finisher, 12-time all-conference selection, former Carroll record holder in the two-mile run in 1961, and key member of the 1960 and 1962 CCIW championship teams.

He also excelled and thrived in the challenging sport of cross country, finishing as the Pioneers' MVP three consecutive seasons highlighted by an undefeated conference team title in 1960, placing third individually in 1961 and fourth in 1962.

"Having a meet dedicated to his memory is an extreme honor which he fully deserves...but I am sure Dad's humility wouldn't allow him to see all the amazing things he accomplished and all the lives he impacted positively, simply by just being himself," said Kevin Sippy, Steve's son. "He would probably say, 'ALL this...for ME???' Which is exactly why he deserves to have the honor bestowed upon him and have his name and memory live on in a sport he loved, at the college he LOVED." Kevin, himself a standout cross country and track athlete, proudly followed in his father's footsteps and was inducted into the Carroll Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002 (becoming the first father and son tandem in school history to accomplish the feat).

"We were the first father-son to be inducted into the Carroll Hall of Fame and when I asked him to present me for my induction he graciously accepted. All of my athletic accomplishments and life goals were inspired and motivated by attempting to be a great person just like him. He demanded respect on the track, loved good, fair competition and made a point to cheer everyone on."

As the family patriarch and first to attend Carroll, he took great pride and satisfaction in watching that tradition continue through the years, resulting in the talented Sippy clan being affectionately regarded as the "first family of Carroll cross country and track and field."

"My Dad was my mentor, hero, teacher, and co-pilot to most of my daughter Peyton's competitions," added Kevin, a 1990 Carroll alum who served as an assistant track coach and recruiter for Carroll athletics following his memorable career. "He always showed great pride while watching his children and grandchildren compete in sports through the years.

For longtime Carroll head coach Shawn Thielitz, getting the rare opportunity to honor the memory of one of the greatest athletes in school history is extra-special.

"Steve Sippy is one of the finest alums that our program has ever known," Thielitz said. "Over the years, he remained an active fan of our program and continued to be a great ambassador for the sport of track and field. As a team, we felt that the best way to pay our respects to Mr. Sippy and his family was to hold this meet in his honor. I know that he would be embarrassed by it all, but he deserves the recognition that this event will bring to both him and his great family."

Team members wore commemorative shirts to celebrate the special event, including one of Sippy's favorite sayings on the back: "Get out front and stay there."

"On behalf of the athletes, coaching staff and Carroll community, we are excited to be a part of this special day and hope that it shows how much of a lasting impact he had on the cross country/track and field programs at Carroll. His legacy truly does live on."







Steve Sippy conferring with coach Cliff Juedes and Norman Schley.



**Members of the Sippy family include:** wife, Sue; five children, Kyle Sippy, Kristine Kleisner '89, Käären Bordwell '88, Kevin Sippy '90, and Ken Sippy; six grandchildren: Mathew Bordwell, Teryn Gray, Katyn Kleisner, James Bordwell, Peyton Sippy, and Austin Kleisner; and a sister, Sharon Bartelt

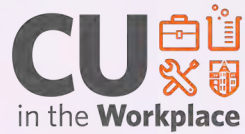


## Carroll Partners with the Community to Fight COVID

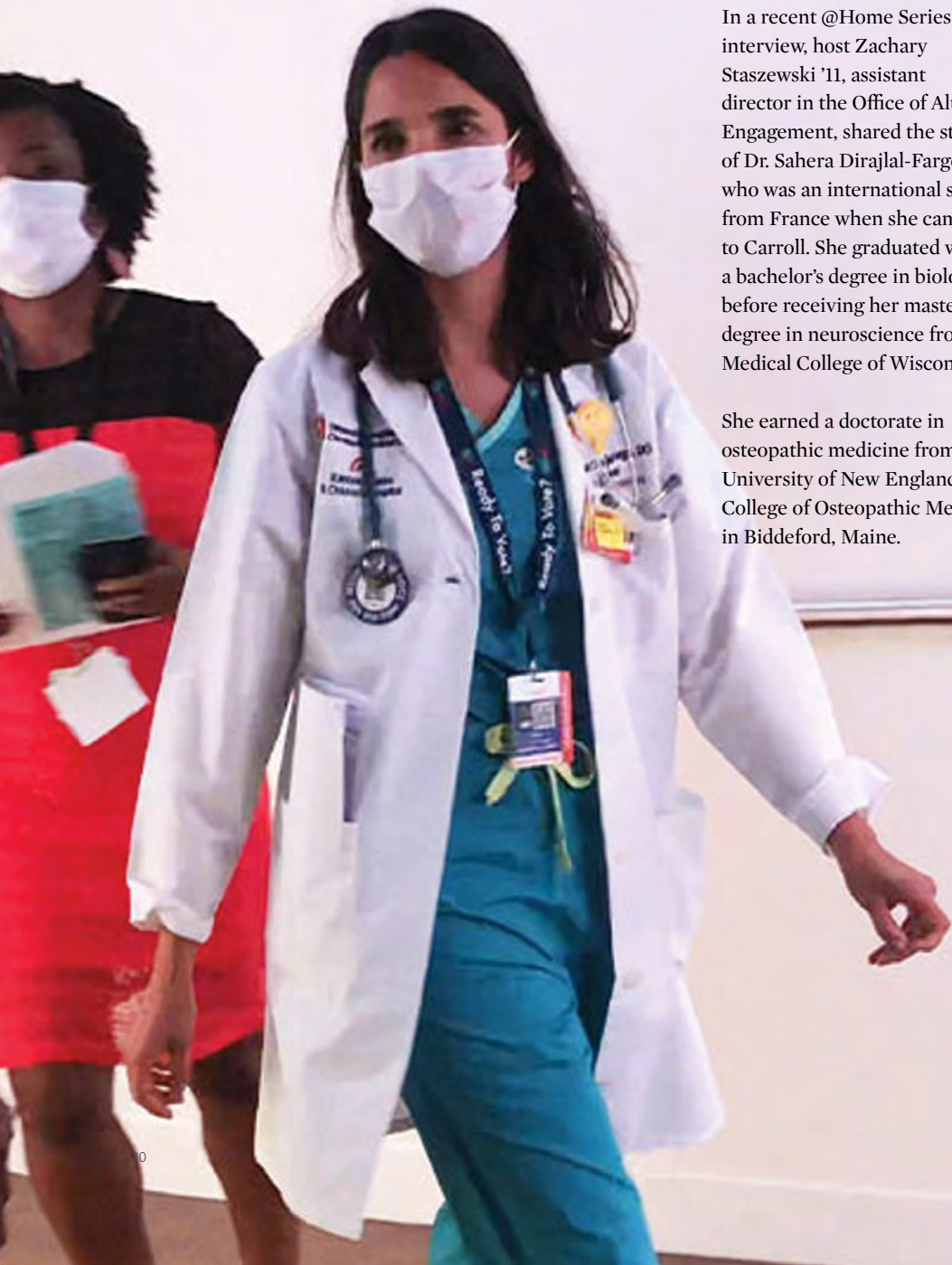
In January, Carroll served the community as a critical resource by providing cold storage for approximately 1000 vaccines when the Waukesha Fire Department needed a back-up storage site. The university was able to accommodate the request and stored the vaccines in freezers located in our state-of-the-art Jaharis Science Laboratories.

The university is the only non-medical facility in Waukesha County used as a back-up storage site for the vaccines. Because of this, we were approved as a vaccine site and were able to host our own clinic. The university administered the first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to 149 eligible employees and students on Friday, March 19, and the second doses on April 16. Prioritization for those who could be vaccinated followed the current guidelines during that time from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The university does plan to offer additional vaccine clinics on campus in the near future.





**Dr. Sahera Dirajlal-Fargo '99**  
**Tackling HIV**  
**in Africa**



The Office of Alumni Engagement launched its first CU in the Workplace video in July of 2018 featuring alumni who share how a Carroll education helped them in their lives and careers. Since then, the series has featured 31 alumni – including three alumni couples – in various fields and multiple careers. In April of 2020, the series pivoted at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to a virtual format, becoming the CU in the Workplace @Home Series.

In a recent @Home Series interview, host Zachary Staszewski '11, assistant director in the Office of Alumni Engagement, shared the story of Dr. Sahera Dirajlal-Fargo '99, who was an international student from France when she came to Carroll. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology before receiving her master's degree in neuroscience from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

She earned a doctorate in osteopathic medicine from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine.

In her position at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital on the Case Western Reserve University campus in Cleveland, Ohio, she leads ongoing pediatric HIV research in sub-Saharan Africa, educates the next generation of physicians and researchers as an assistant professor in pediatrics, and serves as an administrator for the medical school fellowship program, all while seeing patients as a lead physician in pediatric infectious diseases.

"What I care for in the patient population that my heart is with right now are those children who were born with HIV. There's about three million children living with HIV, 90 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa, and I want to make sure we don't lose that generation," Dirajlal-Fargo shares in her CU in the Workplace @Home Series video. To view her video and other alumni workplace videos, enter **CU in the Workplace** in the search bar at [carrollu.edu](http://carrollu.edu).

**To nominate yourself or to suggest a Pioneer to be featured in our monthly video series, please send details to [alumni@carrollu.edu](mailto:alumni@carrollu.edu).**



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# 125 years

**1896** The Carroll Players founded by May Nickell Rankin, theatre professor and first woman to graduate from Carroll. First production, "Richelieu," opens June 5. First performances staged in a casino hall.

**1908** Alfred Lunt, a student at the academy and then college from 1906-1912, takes to the Players' stage for the first time in a production of "The Private Secretary" in Voorhees Hall. By 1917, Lunt would be performing on Broadway.

**1911** Professor Rankin launches the Department of Interpretation and Dramatic Literature.

**1922** Professor Rankin opens Little Theatre in second floor of Main Hall.

**1930** Stanley Morner graduates, after playing numerous leads in Players' productions. He became a popular leading man in Hollywood in the 1940s and '50s under the stage name, Dennis Morgan.

**1932** Carroll first offers a major in Speech and Dramatics.

**1946** The Carroll Players perform Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler," with a discharged veteran in a leading role.

**1957** Youman's Little Theater dedicated in the basement of Main Hall.

**1978** "Purlie," by Ossie Davis is the first all-Black production to be staged by a university or college in Wisconsin.

**1979** The musical "1776" is the first offering in the newly constructed main stage theatre in Otteson. The production, directed by professor David Molthen includes Carroll administrators, alumni and community members.

# PLAY

## Carroll Players Mark 125 Years



The performance of Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton's "Richelieu" on June 5, 1896 marked the beginning of The Carroll Players, recognized today as Wisconsin's oldest active theatre organization as it celebrates 125 years in 2021.

The student organization has in its history remained open to any student on campus with an interest in theatre, an important aspect in the success of Carroll's theatre program overall that remains true today.

"I think the ongoing partnership between the Carroll Players student organization and the Theatre Arts production efforts throughout the years is important to include in any historical look at the Players," said James Zager, professor of theatre and dance in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Carroll. "It has definitely been a symbiotic relationship benefiting both groups."

In the spirit of that ongoing relationship, and in honor of the 125th anniversary, Carroll's Theatre Arts program co-produced and hosted with The Carroll Players a Festival of New Works/10-minute Play Festival in March, according to Jennifer Dobby, distinguished lecturer within the Theatre and Arts Management Program and chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

The festival came following a contest in which the two groups sought submissions of 10-minute plays from students, staff, faculty or alumni. A student literary management team read and scored 37 submissions in January and chose the top 11 plays to be produced and directed by students and alumni.

At varied times during its long history, The Carroll Players had a more social and supportive role within the theatre program. Through the years, the organization has evolved so that students have more opportunities to be involved in the design, directing and producing roles of the university's theatre season.

**Learn more about The Carroll Players and the organization's history on the web:**  
<https://carrollplayers.weebly.com/players-history.html>.





*In the meantime, we solicited fun memories from alumni who provide first-person accounts of their time with The Carroll Players. Their varied tales show that not all of the action happens on stage with students building professional skills but also lifelong friendships through their shared experiences.*



"1776" staged in the new Otteson Theatre in 1979.



"Oklahoma" staged in 1984.



"Purlie" staged in 1978

**Linda (Luecht) Sklander '84**

I was a freshman in my first week of college when I decided to audition for the fall musical, "Godspell." I really knew nothing about the play but I'd always been involved in musicals so I thought "Why not?" I met some of the best people during that time - most remain friends today. I was always amazed at the talent - and the sounds of all of our voices coming together? Magical. Beautiful. We started each rehearsal with sun salutations; this was my first introduction into yoga and meditation. I met Professor David Molthen, who would later become one of my mentors. I was introduced to stage design, lighting and costuming in a way I had never seen before. And, I found a home in my cast mates. I cried every night we performed and had to sing the ending of 'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord' and it still makes me get choked up.

**Kristen (Grunow) Ricigliano '85**

I was a communications and English major, and only took one theater class in my years at Carroll. But I danced in every musical and became box office manager my junior and senior years and was secretary of the Carroll Players. The theater and choir people were my family when I needed one, and I felt just as welcomed and integral to the Players as I would have been if I'd been a theater major. I found that if you're willing to take a brave step or two in college, those efforts are rewarded and multiplied in ways you might not foresee. My experience with the Carroll Players quite literally shaped who I became and has lasting impact to this day.

**Tim L'Empereur '18**

Going into my freshman year at Carroll University, I never thought that I would graduate as a "lighting designer." Quite frankly, I hardly knew the role even existed in the theatre world. I remember touring the Otteson theatre with Justin Gale late in my first semester. He brought me up to the tech booth and showed me an ETC Ion, a state-of-the-art lighting board. I had absolutely no idea what it was or how to use it - but I was eager to learn. I am still very passionate about lighting design and it is absolutely because of opportunities and encouragement the Carroll Players provided.

**Jake Schertz '15**

In 2017 I was the production stage manager for "Next to Normal" during the Summer Rep series. This rock musical is on my top 10 favorite musicals list, and helping bring Professor Jenn Dobby's vision to light was an absolute honor. Working alongside faculty, students, alumni and professionals from the greater Milwaukee area was the perfect way to spend my last summer in Wisconsin. The show we created was heartfelt, stunning, and something I'll never forget. All my best! Happy 125th Players! Once a Carroll Player, always a Carroll Player.

**Michelle Wintlend '91**

I graduated from Carroll College in '91, but was not a theater major. I took Playgoers my freshman year taught by Professor Molthen. One of our assignments was to perform a one-act play. My group picked "The Valiant" about a man on death row. I don't remember the details, except for the last line. We would be backstage and count the seconds as Grant Fitch, the prisoner, would dramatically pause between words: "The Valiant... only... taste... of death... but... once." Much to Professor Molthen's surprise, we were invited to be part of the Mainstage One Act show!

**Stephen Hudson-Mairet '90**

I have a memory from 1988 or 1989 or so. Chuck Erven was designing "Little Shop of Horrors." Tim Laughner loaded a handful of us young theatre types into a truck and we went down to Racine and brought back 2 or 3 pieces of legitimate steel fire escape. The pieces were so heavy we had to tie it to the building and rev the truck out so they fell out onto the grass outside of the Otteson. Then it took five of us on one end and a football player named "Bison" on the other to get it into the building. Somehow we got it into the air safely and it looked great.

**Robert Colletta '17**

Carroll Players was the first organization I joined! The passion, energy, and camaraderie immediately gave me a home at Carroll University. By the end of my first year I started shooting for the theatre, having made some of my most cherished connections. I adopted my "Yes, and" attitude and learned some of my greatest lessons in those halls.





Competitor Scott  
Found His Home in a Pool

# WATERPROOF

By Sam Gobert,  
*sports information graduate assistant*

“That’s it! You’re going to start swimming!” declared Thaddeus Scott’s mother. After a hyperextended spine and a collection of other injuries from contact sports, Scott’s parents were ready for him to try something less stressful to his joints and bones. He needed some convincing, but Scott has taken to it like, well, a duck takes to water.



Scott, a second-year student, lists his hometown as Valparaiso, Indiana, but has a hard time giving one answer for where he grew up. "I was born in Michigan, but I didn't live there for very long," he said. He bounced back and forth between Texas and Indiana several times before coming to Carroll.

Scott was a multi-sport athlete growing up, competing in football, basketball, baseball and soccer. Injuries ended his football and soccer involvement when he was eight years old.



SCOTT

"When I was 12 years old, I was in a basketball tournament when I got shoved from behind and really hyperextended my back," said Scott. The condition he suffered is called Spondylolysis, a medical term for a stress fracture or weakness in the facet joints in his lower back. Scott had broken his L5 vertebrae

from that push in the back. After six weeks in a brace, he was back on the court. A few months later, a knee injury forced his parents to make a decision on his athletic career.

"I really didn't want to swim," said Scott. "I had these negative thoughts about swimming. I was always playing contact sports growing up, and I didn't really like the idea of giving them up to swim." His parents pressed on and signed him up for a summer swim league with his little brother. Scott's mind changed over that summer, as he learned how to have fun in the pool. The sport helped him grow and get into shape, and it became something he and his little brother could do together. Scott joined a club swim team in the 10th grade, thinking he would be playing water polo and messing around in the pool like in the summer, "club league isn't close to what a summer league is" he soon found out, and he started swimming competitively.

Scott quickly became a fast swimmer, garnering attention from colleges and universities to swim on scholarship. "I was ranked pretty high in the state for my mile, and I had a pretty good scholarship to swim at Notre Dame College in Ohio," said Scott. Scott was determined to come into school with times that were better than the records at Notre Dame College. "I felt like I needed to prove a point to previous coaches," said Scott, alluding to coaches who told him he would never swim in college.

One night in the weight room, three weeks before the championship meet, Scott was squatting with some of his teammates. "My coach and everyone were trying to get me to do 100-pound dumbbell squats. I grabbed the dumbbell, did three reps, went down for four and felt my back pop again," said Scott, the stress fracture had returned. "I didn't think anything of it. I swam that meet and everything felt alright. When we came back in September after a month and a half break, I got back in the water and I couldn't do a flip turn." Scott recalls going to the doctor soon thereafter. Lying down on a table, Scott couldn't lift his legs in the air, signaling he had broken his back in the same spot as before.

After failed cortisone shots, Scott had surgery to repair his spine in January of 2019. Two screws and two hooks

were embedded into his spine to keep the joints connected. Doctors told Scott he would be lucky if he could ever compete again. "Hearing that at 17, when you have pretty much a full-ride scholarship to go to school is heartbreaking," said Scott. "I had a hard time walking." Scott battled depression through it all, watching others compete while all he could do was watch. His one motivator? Watching his little brother succeed and wanting that for himself.

***"I grabbed the dumbbell, did three reps, went down for four and felt my back pop again."***

Scott came to Carroll University in the fall of 2019 and committed to the swim team, still plotting his comeback to the sport. He was cleared for participation in May of 2020. He found himself quickly getting back to his old form, losing weight, and exercising. Scott still says he's not where he wants to be yet, but he's getting there. "I couldn't believe he had broken something with how he had trained," said head swimming and diving coach Guy Gniotczynski. "He has an incredible drive to improve, so it's great to have him around."

Scott has lofty goals, setting his eyes on breaking records for the mile, 1,000-yards and 500-yards, and becoming a CCIW conference champion, something that hasn't happened to a Carroll men's swimmer since 1990. "Even if I don't get back to where I was, I'll know that I gave it my all," said Scott, "I'll let go of what past coaches have said to me because I need to just prove it to myself that I tried my best. I'm so thankful to be swimming and competing again." In his first season back in the pool, Scott has collected wins against his CCIW opponents in the 500-yard freestyle and the 1000-yard freestyle.

Scott is an exercise science major at Carroll, pursuing the physical therapy graduate program. He chose physical therapy so he could give back and help athletes who have experienced similar season- and career-ending injuries.

# CLASS NOTES

Please send news of weddings, births, deaths; new jobs and promotions; academic and professional degrees; church and community service activities; awards and achievements; and changes of address to the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@carrollu.edu](mailto:alumni@carrollu.edu) or via mail to Carroll University, 100 N. East Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186.

These updates were received between Sept. 1, 2020, and March 5, 2021.

## 1964

**Judy Graham '64** served in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa, following graduation. She then completed a Masters in Social Work at Columbia University in New York. Her career achievements include serving as a community organizer for NENA, a community-controlled health center on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the director of Women's Medical Center and the assistant director of St. Luke's Hospital Comprehensive Alcohol Treatment Program. Marriage to film producer Jon Blair took her to London where she became the first female director of the Alcohol Recovery Centre, establishing the first service for women in the U.K. and then co-director of Charity Projects/Comic Relief, a high-profile charity fundraiser. Graham trained in Gestalt psychotherapy and practices both privately and in the National Health Service. She has two children and two grandchildren.

## 1978



**Marie Britt-Sharpe '78** has been elected to a second term as chairperson of the 86-year-old Brewery Credit Union in Milwaukee.

## 1989



**Scott Mindel '89** was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin State High School Teacher of the Year Award along with the Wisconsin District 6 and VFW Fred A. Schaefer Post 1393 Teacher of the Year Award. In May 2020 he was awarded the 2020 Rolfs Education Foundation Award for the West Bend School District. Mindel has taught in the West Bend School District for 27 years.

## 1990

**Jennifer (Mayer) Wilson '90** published a book in November 2020 titled "Waking Up to Your Worth: Ten Touchstones for Overcoming Imposter Syndrome." A news release notes in the book, Wilson "tackles the topic of Imposter Syndrome, a wide-spread phenomenon that many people experience, but is largely invisible because people who suffer from it remain silent. Cutting across race, age, gender, geography, and class, Imposter Syndrome is the insidious voice that strikes fear and self-doubt in our hearts, despite all the evidence that we deserve to be right where we are." Wilson is founder and principal of New Leaf Coaching and Consulting, where she partners with world-changing organizations such as Sierra Club and The Obama Foundation, that are committed to social and environmental justice.

## 1991



**Amy (Wendland) Schmidt '91** presented at the TEDx Body and Soul Event in Cape May, New Jersey, on Nov. 10, 2020. She hosts a podcast called Fearlessly Facing Fifty and recently authored a book, "Cannonball! Fearlessly Facing Midlife and Beyond." You can learn more about both at her website [www.fearlesslyfacingfifty.com](http://www.fearlesslyfacingfifty.com).

## 1993

**Bonita Goist '93** has been named director of admissions and marketing at Elgin Academy, a 181-year-old private school near Chicago, Illinois.

## 1998

**Karen Gorton '98**, PhD, RN, FNP, MS, has been elected vice president of Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma), one of the most influential nursing organizations across the world. In the role of vice president, Gorton will support the organization's mission to develop nurse leaders anywhere to improve health care everywhere. Gorton is currently an associate professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Her main responsibilities are in nursing education within the doctoral program. Additionally, she teaches in the MSN and DNP programs.

## 2003



**Jenn Youngblood '03** has been appointed as the first deputy forest supervisor for the Chippewa National Forest. She brings more than 30 years of experience developing and managing programs, from health care to the environment.

## 2015



**Avery Heldt '15 and James Stark '18** were married in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Oct. 17, 2020.



**Hanna (Wienke) Holzer '15** and her husband Davey welcomed a baby girl, Ella Louise Holzer, on Oct. 2, 2020.





**Ashley Mazurek '15, M.Ed. '17** married Erik Drwila on Nov. 7, 2020.

2016

**Brittany (Radish) Bartz '16 and Andrew Bartz '17** were married in a small ceremony in June, 2020. They plan a large celebration when the risk of Covid-19 subsides.



**Alex (Zogran) Smith '16, M.Ed. '19** and husband **Cody Smith '15** welcomed a baby boy, Hudson Daniel Smith, on Sept. 24, 2020.

2017

**Aimee (Hilber) Donnelly '17** and her husband had a baby boy in May, 2020.

**Justin Latawiec '17** lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and runs MKE Sound, a professional DJ company providing disc jockey services for weddings and other events. He notes the company offers a discount for Carroll alumni.



**Laura Schenk '17 and Eric Bayer '20** are engaged and planning a July 23, 2022 wedding in Big Sky, Montana. Schenk is a family service manager for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Waukesha, and Bayer is pursuing his master's degree in occupational therapy at Carroll.



**Jaclyn Wilcox '17** has been promoted to associate attorney by the law firm of Salvi, Schostok & Prichard. She had been working as a law clerk with the firm the previous three years.

2019



**Megan Mahoney M.Ed. '19** is engaged to Zach Navin. The couple, both Kenosha, Wisconsin residents, plan an Aug. 20, 2021 wedding.

Maui Reunion

It's been awhile since Cathy (Rieves) Nerding '76 (left) and Kay (Drews) Whiten '77 (right) celebrated one of their birthdays together. The last time was back when they were roommates in North Bergstrom. So, this year, when the opportunity finally presented itself, they went big, celebrating Kay's birthday during a trip to Maui in January of this year. The former roommates, accompanied by Kay's husband, Marc Whiten '77 (center), enjoyed two weeks in Hawaii, reminiscing and soaking up the sun. In the photo, they're holding a reunion T-shirt commemorating Peace with Grease, a popular Carroll student band from the '70s. Nerding resides in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, while the Whiten's live in New York City.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

We'd love to see you in the future at one or more of the following Carroll events. If you have questions or an event idea, reach out at [alumni@carrollu.edu](mailto:alumni@carrollu.edu).

**National Service Project: Pioneers Feed America**

April 1-30

**Distinguished Alumni Awards Event**

Tuesday, April 20, 5 p.m. Virtual  
Honoring the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award and Graduate of the Last Decade recipients. Event will be livestreamed for viewing

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bi-Annual Meeting with Alumni**

Sunday, April 25, 1 p.m. Virtual  
All are welcome

**Toast to 2021 Graduates, Baccalaureate, and Graduate Commencement Ceremony**

Friday, May 7

**Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony**

Saturday, May 8

**Annual Pioneer Golf Classic**

Monday, August 2

**Homecoming & Reunion Weekend**

October 14-17

**2021 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction & Ceremony**

October 17

Check out other upcoming alumni events at [carrollu.edu/alumni/events](http://carrollu.edu/alumni/events)

# IN MEMORIAM

## 1930s

**Eleanor (Eastman) Oltman '39** passed away Nov. 9, 2020.

## 1940s

**Irene (Quick) Ilgen '42** passed away Dec. 22, 2020, at the age of 98 in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Betty (Spoerl) Bright '44** passed away Oct. 30, 2020.

**Janet (Johncox) Hengsen Scholbe '45** passed away April 11, 2020, in Caldwell, Wisconsin. She is survived by her son, **Stephen Hengsen '76**.

**Anton S. Westimayer '47** passed away Oct. 10, 2020, at the age of 97 at his home in Horicon, Wisconsin.

**Betty (Miller) Leonard '49** passed away Jan. 29, 2020.

**Lincoln D. Smith '49** passed away Oct. 1, 2020, at the age of 94 in Colgate, Wisconsin.

## 1950s

**Helen J. (Holmberg) Eisele '50** passed away October 15, 2020, at the age of 92. She resided in Amelia Island, Florida.

**Phillip Leising '50** passed away Aug. 9, 2020, at the age of 94 in Bellevue, Washington.

**Jean (Tills) Aplin '51** passed away Jan. 23, 2021. She resided in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Sun Lakes, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Roland "Dick" Aplin '51**, whom she met in the registration line at Carroll.

**Jerome J. Neubauer '51** passed away Oct. 2, 2019, at the age of 91 in Olympia Fields, Illinois.

**Joseph Freeman '52** passed away Feb. 10, 2021, at the age of 90 in Appleton, Wisconsin.

**Paul J. Kablitz '52** passed away Oct. 17, 2020, at the age of 93 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

**Yvonne (Graf) Letson '52** passed away July 20, 2020, at the age of 89.

**Norman K. Anderson '53** passed away June 27, 2020, at the age of 89 in Santa Barbara, California.

**Joan (Pritzlaff) Brown '53** passed away Nov. 20, 2020, at the age of 89 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. She was preceded in death by brothers **David Pritzlaff '53** and **James Pritzlaff '62**.

**John E. Bladholm '54** passed away Oct. 30, 2020, in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the age of 89.

**Dr. Donald Fortnum '54** passed away Feb. 2, 2021, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the age of 88. He had been a professor emeritus of chemistry at Gettysburg College.

**James Kaltenborn '54** passed away Feb. 5, 2021, at the age of 88 in San Diego, California. James is survived by his wife, **Shirley (Weekes) Kaltenborn '56** and many family members, including brother-in-law **Stephen Weekes '64** and sister-in-law **Susan Stein McDonald '64**.

**Roland G. Brandstetter '55** passed away Aug. 24, 2020, at the age of 87 in McKinney, Texas.

**Dr. Edwin S. Stefan '55** passed away Dec. 11, 2020, in Findlay, Ohio.

**Donald M. Brower '57** passed away March 21, 2020.

**Phillip J. Offerdahl '57** passed away Nov. 1, 2020, at the age of 85 in Hudson, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife, **Donna (Feggstad) Offerdahl '57**, whom he met at Carroll.

**James W. Coutts '58** passed away Nov. 30, 2020, at the age of 83 in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Among the many family members who loved and will miss him is his nephew **Lawrence Coutts '70**. James was preceded in death by brother and sister-in-law **Robert '49** and **Margaret (Hougen) '49 Coutts**.

**Susan (Leiser) Gumm '58** passed away July 26, 2020, at the age of 84 in West Bend, Wisconsin. She is survived by her husband **Donald Gumm '55** and was preceded in death by sister **Bernice Evans '40** and brother-in-law **Howard Gumm '48**.

**David S. Henke '58** passed away Nov. 24, 2020, in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

**William Kukuk '58** of South Jordan, Utah, passed away in 2020. He is survived by many family members, including siblings **Wally Kukuk '70** and **Betty (Kukuk) Kloostra '59** along with his niece **Tracy (Unertl) Gregoire '92**.

**Elizabeth "Becky" (Beglinger) Olson '58** passed away Nov. 22, 2020, at the age of 84 in Neenah, Wisconsin.

**Robert D. Kreul '59** passed away April 18, 2020, at the age of 83 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

**Eleanore (Percell) Slaviero '59** passed away March 3, 2020, at the age of 84. She is survived by many family members, including her husband, **Con Slaviero '58**.

**Morlin "Mike" Vincent '59** passed away Nov. 19, 2020, in Fort Worth, Texas, at the age of 87.

## 1960s

**James Bowerman '60** passed away April 12, 2020, at the age of 82 in West Bend, Wisconsin.

**Olivia (Bell) Carney '60** of Sevastopol, Wisconsin, passed away July 21, 2020, at the age of 81.

**Jerome R. Kagel '60** passed away Oct. 7, 2020, at the age of 85 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

**Richard "Dick" L. Oates '60** passed away Jan. 6, 2021, at the age of 82. Dick was a successful businessman and banker, retiring as president of Sunset Bank, Waukesha. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Judy (Mink) Oates '60**. He is survived by his wife Carolyn Hunter Oates, his son Mike Oates and daughter

**Jenny (Chuck '86) Burghaus**. Oates also shares many Carroll connections within his extended family including his stepdaughter, **Amy (Birschbach) Dethloff '94**; brother-in-law, **Bill Laatsch '60**; nieces-in-law, **Ann Laatsch '88** and **Tara (Driscoll) Laatsch '96**; and nephew-in-law, **David Laatsch '95**. Memorials in Dick's name are appreciated at the Richard and Carolyn Hunter Oates Endowed Scholarship Fund for International Study at Carroll.

**Joann (Matthiesen) Strelow '60** passed away Dec. 11, 2020, at the age of 82 in Deerfield, Illinois.

**Robert Weimer '60** passed away Feb. 22, 2020, at the age of 81 in Pekin, Illinois. He was formerly married to the late **Patricia (Kay) Weimer '59**.

**Carole (Niehoff) Anderson '61** passed away Oct. 23, 2020, at the age of 81. She leaves behind her husband of 59 years, **Charley**, from the class of 1959. Carole met Charley on her first night at Carroll where they dated, were pinned, and then engaged. They married two weeks before Carole graduated in 1961 with a major in elementary education. She taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Dixon Elementary in Brookfield before starting a family. In 1981, she bought a card and gift shop called Finders Keepers. Carole's love of greeting cards, paper goods and gifts for the home served her well as she managed the shop for six years. Carole's husband, Charley, served on the Carroll University Board of Trustees for 12 years, from 1991-2003. He is an honorary lifetime trustee for his above and beyond commitment to the campus. In addition to his board tenure, Anderson volunteered as the college's acting vice president for business and finance during a transition in administration and was chairman of the trustee advisory committee formed to assist in the daily operation of the college.

**David B. Conklin '62** of Rockford, Illinois, passed away Nov. 6, 2020, at the age of 80.



**Richard R. Clark '64** passed away Dec. 10, 2020, at the age of 78 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

**Bruce Schwoch '64** passed away Sept. 22, 2019, at the age of 76 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

**Claude C. Johnson Jr. '65** passed away Nov. 15, 2020, at the age of 83 in New Berlin, Wisconsin.

**Judith (Sukus) Adams '66** passed away Oct. 5, 2020, at her home in Beloit, Wisconsin. She met her husband, **Dr. Jeffrey Adams '66** at Carroll.

**Colleen Riley '68** of the Town of Gibraltar, Wisconsin, passed away Oct. 12, 2020, at the age of 74.

**Stephen E. Schneider '69** passed away June 16, 2020, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 73.

## 1970s

**David Hoewisch '70** passed away Nov. 24, 2020, in San Jose, California.

**Betty Karweick '70** passed away Dec. 10, 2020, at the age of 72 in Verona, Wisconsin.

**Kathryn (Gosse) Thomas '70** passed away Feb. 19, 2020, in Green Valley, Arizona, at the age of 71.

**Michael T. Corrigan '71** passed away March 30, 2020, in Alpharetta, Georgia. He is survived by his wife, **Cheryl (Johannsen) Corrigan '71**.

**Michael J. Sadowski '71** passed away Sept. 28, 2020, at the age of 71. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Debra (Roeland) Sadowski '71**.

**David B. Carlsen '72** passed away Jan. 30, 2020, at the age of 70 in Algonquin, Illinois.

**Marie (Johnson) Bieber '75** passed away Oct. 21, 2020.

**Pamela "Wacoginiwiga" Winneshiek '75** of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, passed away July 17, 2019, at the age of 65.

## 1980s

**Margaret (Peteler) Bush '80** passed away Sept. 27, 2020.

**Dennis Fritzsche '80** passed away October 18, 2020, in Sandwich, Illinois, at the age of 62.

**Kari (Wind) Stroede '80** passed away Nov. 26, 2020, at the age of 62 in Augusta, Wisconsin.

**Marsha (Docking) French '83** passed away July 6, 2020, at the age of 78 in Venice, Florida.

**Beatrice A. (Wade) Webster '83** passed away Nov. 15, 2020, at the age of 83. Among her many survivors is her grandson, **Brendan Wade '16**.

**Penelope Sabee '86** passed away Jan. 14, 2021, at the age of 55. She was a resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## 1990s

**Victoria A. (Hogan) Butterfield '90** passed away July 28, 2020, at the age of 73 in Tinley Park, Illinois.

**Julia Alice Jazgar '92** passed away in Green Bay, Wis. at the age of 50. She graduated with a degree in Education in '92, then received her Nursing degree from MATC. She is the daughter of Bob and Ann (Gerdes '61) Jazgar.

**Bonnie (Nixon) Langston '97** passed away April 7, 2020, at the age of 71 in Jonesboro, Georgia.

## 2010s

**Julie Schweiss '17** passed away Dec. 1, 2020, at the age of 26 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

## Former Trustee

**Richard "Dick" Godfrey Jacobus** passed away Jan. 28, 2021, at the age of 91 in Hobe Sound, Florida. Among his many noteworthy civic contributions, Jacobus served on the Carroll Board of Trustees from 1971-1978.

# MOVE UP



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# NOTABLE 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Read full bios on each of the recipients at  
<https://www.carrollu.edu/alumni/awards/distinguished>

## Timothy W. Sullivan '75

### P.E. MacAllister Distinguished Alumnus Award for Service to Carroll

In a life marked by a series of professional successes, Sullivan is also celebrated for his civic involvements, generous philanthropy and service to community. His leadership has been particularly significant in the recent growth and vibrancy of Carroll. Sullivan has provided his alma mater counsel and support in a variety of leadership capacities. He served for nine years on the Carroll Board of Trustees after being elected as a member in October 2008. Most notably, Sullivan helped Carroll to successfully raise nearly \$53 million as co-chair for the institution's last campaign, Campaign Carroll: The Common Thread, from July 2009 to September 2016. A key component of the campaign was the Michael and Mary Jaharis Science Laboratories, the first new (and first all-gift/grant) academic building built on campus in the past 50 years.

## Dr. Lauren E. Brown '61

### Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievement (Awarded Posthumously)

*(Editor's note: Dr. Brown passed away March 10, 2021.)* Known as a leading expert in the field of zoology, Brown's expertise was often sought by national conservationists, committees and news outlets. Most recently a professor emeritus of vertebrate zoology and curator of amphibians and reptiles at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, Illinois, Brown began his professional career at ISU as an assistant professor of vertebrate zoology in 1967. His primary teaching assignments included general zoology 194, comparative vertebrate anatomy 295, field biology 308, biology of the lower vertebrates 395 and evolution 470. At the time of his passing, he also held concurrent appointments as an Associate of Zoology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois and Research Affiliate at the Illinois Natural History Survey.

## Dr. Jeffrey L. Champion '82

### Distinguished Alumnus Award for Community Service

Following his graduation from Carroll, Champion went to dental school at the University of Minnesota and while there, provided services for low-income individuals at the Gospel Dental Mission Clinic in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since those early days of sharing his dental skills through his volunteer efforts, Dr. Champion has served the Waupun, Wisconsin community in private practice since 1986. He continues to weave service into all aspects of both his personal and professional life, driven by the belief that there is an obligation to give back to the global community, particularly those underserved. From China, to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and underserved regions of Wisconsin, Champion is just that, a champion, to those in need.



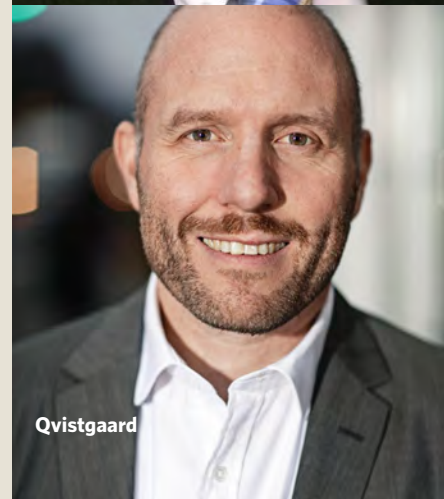
Sullivan



Brown



Champion



Qvistgaard



Do you know a Carroll graduate who has excelled in their profession, in their community as a young alumna/us, or in their service to Carroll?

If so, please consider nominating Carroll Pioneers!

Visit [carrollu.edu/alumniawards](http://carrollu.edu/alumniawards) to nominate someone today!



## Lars Qvistgaard '89

### Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievement

Lars Qvistgaard traveled to Waukesha as an international student in the 1980s, seeking an education at Carroll, which he credits now for the large impact it had on both his professional career and private life. Today, he is the president of Akademikerne: The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations, an umbrella organization for 27 member organizations offering services to professional and managerial staff. They serve over 431,000 members - about 1/5 of the Danish labor force. Qvistgaard helped lay the groundwork for legislation which gives the same control and sanctions to psychological occupational hazards as to physical hazards, serving as an advocate for those with stress, depression, job strain, etc. He also serves as a member of the Danish Government's Advisory Council on Occupational Hazards, Advisory Council on Labor Policy, Trade Union Advisory Committee and Economic Council contributing to independent council on sustainability and soundness of public finances in Denmark.

## Dr. Bart Williams '91

### Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievement

Williams is considered a world leader in the study of bone biology and the way the body communicates at the molecular level. For more than 20 years, he has been leading a research laboratory at Van Andel Institute (VAI) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. VAI studies the genetic, cellular and molecular origins of cancer, Parkinson's and other diseases and works to translate those findings into effective therapies to improve the health of current and future generations. Williams is also the Chair of the Department of Cell Biology at VAI, and a member of the VAI senior research leadership team since 2009. Dr. Williams has co-authored over 150 publications or book chapters, been invited to present at more than 120 seminars on his laboratory's work throughout the United States and in seven foreign countries, and served on over 60 review panels to evaluate scientific research proposals for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, numerous philanthropic foundations, and several states and foreign countries.



## Dr. Carol L. (Behnke) Scheidenhelm '69

### Distinguished Alumna Award for Professional Achievement

Scheidenhelm distinguished herself as a servant-leader who directed a small staff with a mission to expand the training and quality of faculty who could teach online. Over the past 30 years, she has made significant contributions in the development and implementation of highly innovative and successful programs in computer-assisted learning. Scheidenhelm was the director of the Office of Learning Technologies and Assessment and the Founding Director of the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy at Loyola University in Chicago (LUC). Her efforts established LUC's position as one of the leading institutions in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities with regard to the number of online courses and programs offered by peer Jesuit colleges and universities.

## Promise "P-Rock" Bruce '10

### Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Bruce's passion for people and his Carroll education, rooted in communication with an emphasis on public relations, has positioned him for success as a local talent on the radio airwaves. He is known professionally as "Promise" or "Promise Got Personality" and continues to seek ways to weave community service and engagement into his daily work. In December 2020, Promise was hired as the morning show host of the newly launched Hot 105.7 FM in Milwaukee. A community advocate, he does youth outreach by speaking at schools and functions. He is a board member for The New State, a historical redevelopment project seeking to transform the old State Theater in Milwaukee into a community music hub for all ages. He has partnered with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and Uni-Fi Records, along with his company, Position Players Inc., to gather new or gently used winter gear for those less fortunate.







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## LEASH LESSONS

Senior Tara Bahr walks Wren down a hallway in North Bergstrom Hall during an exercise in an animal behavior class. Wren is one of four foster dogs being raised and trained by students in the animal behavior program this semester.



# Save The Date

The Legend

*The Legend at Merrill Hills  
Waukesha, Wisconsin*

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51st Annual  
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August 2nd  
2021

For more information about the 51st Annual Pioneer Golf Classic, please visit [carrollu.edu/alumni/golf](http://carrollu.edu/alumni/golf)

## Homecoming & Reunions 2021 October 14-17

As Carroll recognizes its 175th anniversary (1846-2021), the university will continue to honor classes celebrating milestone reunions. With the health and safety of our campus community, as well as alumni guests, as our primary concern, we will continue to review and weigh options for how to offer meaningful and festive reunion experiences this fall. Please stay tuned for more information!

Class of 2021 - 1st Reunion  
Class of 2016 - 5th Reunion  
Class of 2011 - 10th Reunion  
Class of 2006 - 15th Reunion  
Class of 2001 - 20th Reunion  
Class of 1996 - 25th Reunion  
Class of 1991 - 30th Reunion  
Class of 1986 - 35th Reunion

Class of 1981 - 40th Reunion  
Class of 1976 - 45th Reunion  
Class of 1971 - 50th Reunion  
Class of 1966 - 55th Reunion  
Class of 1961 - 60th Reunion  
Class of 1956 - 65th Reunion  
Class of 1951 - 70th Reunion  
Class of 1946 - 75th Reunion



If you are part of a graduation class celebrating in 2021, and wish to join your reunion committee, please indicate your interest at [alumni@carrollu.edu](mailto:alumni@carrollu.edu).

[www.carrollu.edu/homecoming](http://www.carrollu.edu/homecoming)





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Please recycle.

