

The background of the cover features a close-up of the Carroll University mascot, a white dog with blue eyes and a brown collar, looking directly at the camera. In the foreground, a tall, precarious stack of wooden Jenga blocks is balanced. Several of the blocks are branded with the Carroll University logo, which includes the name 'CARROLL UNIVERSITY' and a shield emblem. The entire cover is framed by a solid orange border.

first

THE MAGAZINE
OF CARROLL UNIVERSITY
SPRING/SUMMER 2025

BALANCING ACT: Carroll Remains Financially Sound Amidst Higher Education Turmoil

Commencement 2025

Evan Neubauer '25, grandson of Bill '62 and Cathy (DuVal) '64 Davies, is the newest graduate of a long-standing family legacy at Carroll. **Congrats!**



Campus – and most especially Main Lawn – always feels more beautiful during the two days in May when we celebrate our graduates. Over 800 students received diplomas at Carroll University's Commencement ceremonies, including 564 who earned bachelor's degrees, 203 who earned master's degrees and 70 who earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. For more photos, visit our Flickr albums: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/carrolluniversity>



CARROLL UNIVERSITY

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Exciting things are happening at Carroll, and this first electronic edition of FIRST magazine is one of them! We will be anxious to hear how you like it and invite you to explore the contents online as deeply as you do in print!

There are, of course, other exciting things happening at Carroll and you will see this theme developed through the stories in this issue, all tied together by a common focus on health. Whether it's physical, mental, or the overall well-being of a community, health is a dynamic, multifaceted concept—particularly in higher education today!

We begin by examining the **financial health of our university**. Carroll University remains steadfast in its commitment to providing an exceptional education, fostering innovation, and securing a bright future for our students. Unlike institutions that are merely surviving, we are thriving—adapting, expanding, and leading the way in higher education. With a rich history, diverse academic offerings, and strong support from our community, exemplified by reaching 70% of our Pioneer Driven Campaign goal, we continue to move forward with confidence.

That sense of forward momentum is echoed in the experiences of our students, particularly those **preparing for careers in healthcare**. They are engaging in hands-on, experiential learning that equips them for the future. Our nursing program, for example, is embracing innovation by incorporating immersive virtual reality (IVR) into its simulation lab—enhancing the quality and depth of student learning.

Expanding on the theme of health, **mental and community health** is another feature that highlights Carroll's proactive role in addressing Wisconsin's mental health crisis. Through our Community Counseling Clinic (CCC) and the Behavioral Health Psychology (BHP) master's program, we provide free, accessible mental health services to the Waukesha community while simultaneously training the next generation of clinicians. With plans to transition the CCC into a year-round clinic, we are deepening our impact and commitment to community well-being.

Our **commitment to health** is long-standing and includes a cross generation of alumni, with countless doctors, physical therapists, nurses and others making incredible contributions in healthcare. One such individual is featured in this issue where we highlight the remarkable, decades-long contributions of Dr. Daniel Von Hoff '69 to pancreatic cancer research. A recent Business Wire article underscores his groundbreaking work and its far-reaching implications—proof of the enduring influence Carroll alumni can have on the world.

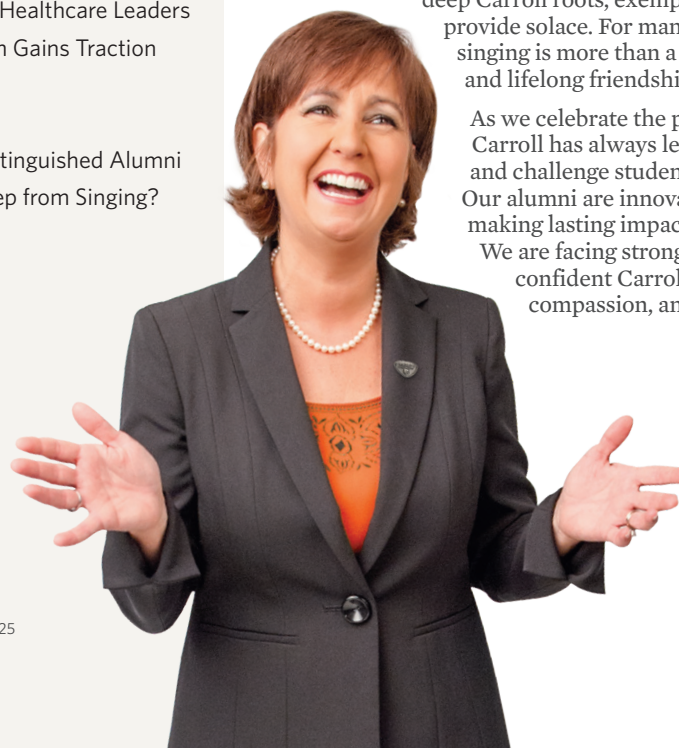
Rounding out this issue is a story that highlights the **healing and connective power of the arts**. Jubilate Chorale, a southeastern Wisconsin community choir with deep Carroll roots, exemplifies how music can foster community and provide solace. For many of its members—Carroll alumni among them—singing is more than a hobby; it's a source of belonging, emotional health, and lifelong friendship.

As we celebrate the past year, we also look Forward to our 180th year! Carroll has always led with purpose. Our faculty continue to support and challenge students to grow into thoughtful, engaged citizens. Our alumni are innovators—shaping ideas, pioneering new paths, and making lasting impacts in their chosen professions and communities. We are facing strong headwinds in higher education. We are confident Carroll University will continue to pioneer with purpose, compassion, and resolve for generations to come.

First. Foremost. Forward.

Cindy Gnadinger

Cindy Gnadinger
President



BALANCING ACT:

Carroll Remains Financially Sound Amidst Higher Education Turmoil

Students, alumni and friends of the university often ask President Gnadinger, “How is Carroll doing?” This article is meant not to be an exhaustive answer to that question but to provide a clear picture of what President Gnadinger and the Board of Trustees see for Carroll amid turbulent times.

Carroll University has been moving forward for 179 years. Our institution predates Wisconsin’s statehood, was the site of the first forward pass in football and remains one of the only private universities in Wisconsin offering degrees from associate to Ph.D. levels. Over the decades, we have weathered wars, market crashes and political upheavals while pioneering innovative programs like the Master of Science in Pathologists’ Assistant and Aviation Science and Drone Technologies. With exceptional pass rates in our health sciences programs, we continue to set high academic standards and innovate for the future.

The Reality of Higher Education Today

The landscape of higher education is shifting. Headlines frequently report college closures and program reductions, leading to concerns about institutional sustainability. According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, colleges facing closure often exhibit key warning signs, including:

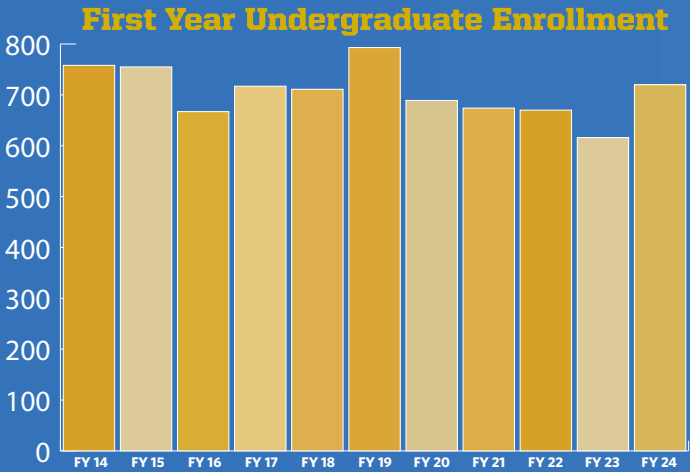
- Declining undergraduate enrollment
- Lower student retention rates
- Lack of new programs or investments
- Large-scale staff reductions
- Significant deferred maintenance
- Decreased net assets or endowments
- Unmet fundraising goals

This article highlights how Carroll is affected by these challenges and explains how Carroll is navigating these challenges with great success.

Enrollment Strength and Financial Stability

Carroll is financially healthy, but it is important to note that we are a tuition-dependent institution. With 88% of our revenue coming from student tuition, enrollment is a high priority. While many universities struggle to balance affordability and innovation, Carroll has managed both by intentionally developing in-demand programs while maintaining accessible tuition costs and growing financial aid.

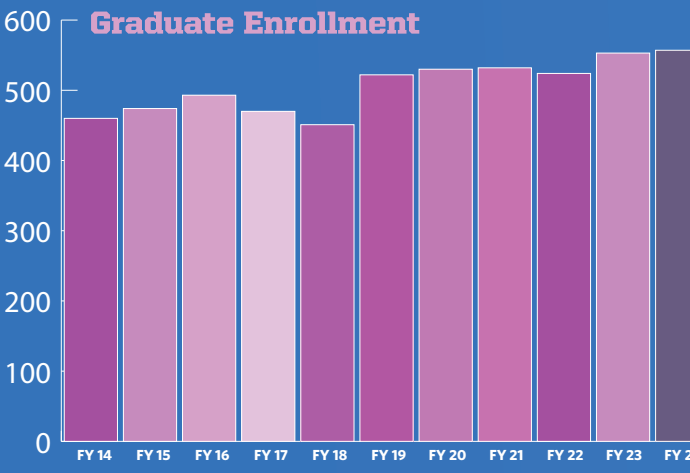
Despite national enrollment fluctuations, our first-year undergraduate enrollment has remained largely steady, with an increase in the number of first-year students in fall 2024 and projected enrollment for fall 2025 that is trending toward record numbers. Graduate enrollment has slowly yet steadily increased. A key growth area is our international enrollment, with a total of 100 international students at Carroll for the 2024-25 academic year—the highest since we began active recruitment.



Adapting Through Innovation

Carroll’s proactive strategies have distinguished us as a leader in higher education. Our enrollment and financial aid teams demonstrated agility when the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was delayed for six months. We developed an internal system to estimate aid packages, estimates that were typically within \$50 of their final awards, allowing students to make informed decisions.

Beyond financial aid, Carroll has taken bold steps to improve student retention. While our first-to-second-year retention rate is a strong 80%, we are committed to increasing it further. In early 2025, we launched CU Central, a one-stop support hub combining the offices of the registrar, institutional research, student success and academic advising. This restructuring provides students with seamless access to essential services while improving operational efficiency for faculty and staff, and to date, student feedback has been very positive.



Investing in Our Future

Carroll continues to develop new programs and create alternative revenue streams to provide financial stability. Previously owned and operated under Barnes & Noble, Carroll took ownership of the Pioneer Shop to increase revenue for the university while promoting brand integrity. Additionally, our investment in Siemens sustainability projects has yielded long-term benefits, reducing gas and electricity usage by 19.6% and water consumption by 22.8%—generating both cost savings and positive environmental impact.

Over the last several years, we have strategically aligned our academic offerings to meet market demands. Our standout programs, such as Animal Behavior and Physician Assistant Studies, consistently outperform others in enrollment and success rates. An internal assessment of programs led the university to consolidate outdated curricula while creating market-demand programs like Artificial Intelligence and Mechanical Engineering. Carroll’s diverse degree options further strengthen our position as Wisconsin’s most comprehensive institution of higher learning.

Sound Financial Management

Despite rising costs in higher education, Carroll has exercised financial discipline. While our revenues have grown by 6.5% over the past eight years, expenses have grown as well. A balancing act to be sure. At the same time, our long-term debt has decreased from \$5.9 million to \$1.3 million, demonstrating fiscal responsibility and careful management.

Our endowment has nearly doubled from \$53 million in 2017 to \$96 million in 2024. This growth allows us to provide scholarships and maintain financial resilience, unlike struggling institutions forced to draw from endowments just to remain operational.

Carroll has also prioritized campus maintenance, investing approximately \$200 million over the past three decades without incurring new debt. Our continued infrastructure investments, including the Siemens Project, reflect our long-term commitment to students and faculty.

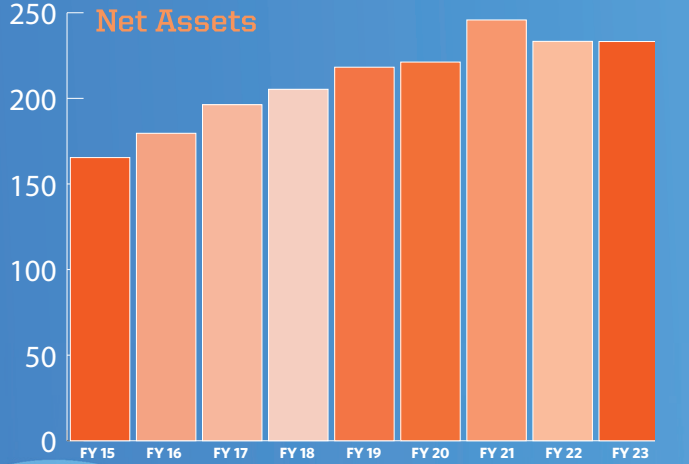
Unlike public universities that rely on state funding, Carroll’s financial model is tuition-, endowment- and donation-driven. Our endowed funds enable us to allocate scholarship funds while maintaining a strong fiscal foundation, and the unrestricted Carroll Fund allows us to provide for a wide array of university programs and needs. We launched the Pioneer Driven campaign, which aims to raise \$100 million to ensure sustainable growth, and to date, we have raised \$70 million. We continue to look for alumni and friends who believe deeply in Carroll’s

mission and would like to join us by making a gift to one of the Campaign objectives. The combination of careful management, growing assets and successful fundraising will enable Carroll to continue its momentum and allow for future borrowing to advance building projects should it be needed.

Economic Impact

As a proud member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), Carroll University plays a critical role in fueling the state’s workforce and economy. WAICU’s 22 private, nonprofit institutions produce over 12,800 graduates annually—accounting for 23% of all bachelor’s and 33% of advanced degrees in Wisconsin—all without direct taxpayer operating support. Nearly 90% of these graduates are employed or enrolled in graduate school within a year, with two-thirds choosing to live and work in Wisconsin. This translates into a highly educated, locally committed workforce that strengthens the state’s tax base and economic vitality.

Carroll and its WAICU peers are also helping to close crucial educational and economic gaps. With over 73,000 job openings annually in Wisconsin requiring a college degree—but only 60,500 new degree-holders statewide—



WAICU institutions help fill this deficit with high-quality, job-ready graduates. Furthermore, they provide access and opportunity for underrepresented communities: 32% of WAICU undergraduates are students of color, 27% qualify for federally funded need-based Pell Grants, and 26% are first-generation college students.

Nationally, the economic return on investment in higher education is compelling. According to Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, educational attainment added \$14.2 trillion to the U.S. economy from 2010 to 2020. If racial and socioeconomic gaps were eliminated, an additional \$11.3 trillion of lifetime earnings could be unlocked for all workers. Individuals with bachelor’s degrees, like those graduating from Carroll University, can expect to earn about \$1 million more over their lifetimes compared to high school graduates—contributing not only to their own prosperity but also to public revenues and economic innovation.

Carroll University graduates don’t just earn degrees—they drive Wisconsin’s future and make significant contributions in the communities where they live and work, most notably in the region Carroll is located but most certainly around the country as well.

The Role of Donors and Alumni

Alumni and donor support are vital to Carroll’s future. Contributions to The Carroll Fund provide immediate and long-term financial benefits, ensuring that our mission

continues for generations to come. If you’re wondering how you can support Carroll, here are some impactful ways:

- Refer students – Share your Carroll experience with prospective students.
- Advocate for higher education – Contact your elected officials to support federal financial aid and fair policies for universities.
- Engage with Carroll – Attend alumni events, give a guest lecture in a class, or mentor students. Invite your network to do the same!
- Make a gift – Donations play a crucial role in sustaining scholarships and campus initiatives. Your gifts are vital to Carroll’s ongoing success. If you would like to help, please reach out to Victoria Dowling, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at vdowling@carrollu.edu for information on how you can make a difference!

A Future of Strength and Innovation

Carroll University remains steadfast in its commitment to providing an exceptional education, fostering innovation and securing a bright future for our students. Unlike institutions that are merely surviving, we are thriving—adapting, expanding and leading the way in higher education. With a rich history, diverse academic offerings and unwavering support from our community, our journey forward is stronger than ever.

Together, we continue to build a legacy of excellence.

Striking a Healthy Balance of Innovation and Ethics in AI



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming every facet of modern life—from how we shop and work to how we diagnose illnesses, deliver education and ensure national security.

With the global AI market expected to reach \$1.339 billion by 2030, Carroll University is taking decisive action to prepare students for careers in this high-impact, high-demand field. The university’s introduction of a new major in Artificial Intelligence, along with a newly-launched minor, positions Carroll at the forefront of AI education in the region with a concerning eye toward the ethics behind intellectual property.

According to Forbes Advisor, AI is growing at an astonishing annual rate of 36.6%, creating opportunities across most industries. To meet these critical demands, Carroll trains students as AI practitioners with a robust blend of theory, technical proficiency and applied learning in real-world workplaces and scenarios.

“We challenge students to solve authentic problems with cutting-edge AI tools,” said Carroll Associate Professor of Computer Science, Margaret Polk, Ph.D., who helped lead the development of the major. “Whether it’s automating medical diagnostics or improving supply chain logistics, our students are equipped to make a difference.”

This shift is evident in the 2024 Work Trend Index Annual Report from Microsoft and LinkedIn, revealing that 66% of business leaders say they would not hire a candidate lacking AI skills. Hence, Carroll is ensuring that all students, regardless of discipline, have access to the tools they need to succeed in an AI-driven world.

Yet Carroll’s program goes beyond skill-building. It places strong emphasis on ethics and responsibility in AI development and deployment. Students grapple with pressing issues such as data bias, algorithmic discrimination, misinformation, deepfakes and the legal uncertainties surrounding AI-generated content. Students explore these nuanced details to better understand the implications of their work.

“Artificial intelligence is not just a tool. It’s a powerful force that can uplift or harm, depending on how it’s used,” Polk added. “Our students are taught to approach AI with curiosity and caution. We want them to ask not just what AI can do, but what it should do.”

This ethical grounding is critical as AI technologies increasingly influence decision-making where the consequences of biased or flawed algorithms have overwhelming impact. Carroll University’s AI programs signal a bold investment in the future for its students and society as a whole. By fusing technical expertise with ethical mindfulness, Carroll is preparing graduates to lead intelligent innovation with integrity and applied knowledge.

Carroll University Integrates Immersive Virtual Reality into Nursing Simulation Lab

Carroll University’s Nursing Program is taking simulation learning to the next level and embracing cutting-edge technology to enhance student learning, with the introduction of immersive virtual reality (IVR) into its simulation lab. Launched in fall 2024, this innovative teaching tool is designed to sharpen critical thinking and decision-making skills by placing students in realistic, computer-generated patient care environments.



“Immersive Virtual Reality allows us to individualize learning in a new and meaningful way,” said Megan Holz, clinical associate professor and clinical simulation director. “It places the student in a virtual setting where they are solely responsible for assessing a patient, interpreting that information, and deciding on the best interventions—all without relying on a team like they would in traditional manikin-based simulations.”

Megan Holz

Using a headset and specialized VR software, students enter lifelike healthcare scenarios that replicate the pressure and complexity of real-world medical settings. Unlike traditional simulation where collaboration is often emphasized, IVR challenges students to work independently, reinforcing autonomy and developing stronger clinical reasoning and thinking skills.

While the technology is still new at Carroll, Holz emphasized that the university is keeping pace with national trends. “We’ve used IVR in our Medical Surgical Practicum Lab for two semesters now. It’s definitely a hot topic in nursing education conferences, and while not every program has adopted it yet, we are fortunate to have the support and funding to begin implementation.”

Student reactions to IVR have been mixed, according to Holz. “Some students are excited by the realism, but others are struggling with motion sickness and adapting to the hand controls. It’s a very different experience when you can’t physically pick up a device but need to use digital hand gestures instead. The shift from hands-on tasks to pure critical thinking is a challenge, and we’re actively working on strategies to improve buy-in and ease of use.”

Holz noted that while the technology won’t replace hands-on simulation, it is a valuable supplement. “We’re not taking away the human aspect of nursing—we’re enhancing it. Simulation, whether through manikins or VR, gives students a safe space to make decisions, make mistakes and learn without risk to real patients. The debriefing afterward is critical. That’s when we uncover whether students truly understood what they were doing or if it was just a lucky guess. It’s where real learning happens.”

This forward-thinking approach is part of a broader commitment to simulation excellence that has earned Carroll University national recognition. The university’s Nursing Program has been officially Endorsed by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation & Learning (INACSL)—a designation held by only 41 programs nationwide. The endorsement recognizes excellence in meeting INACSL’s Core Four Standards of Prebriefing, Debriefing, Facilitation, and Professional Integrity.

“We are honored to receive this endorsement, which highlights the outstanding work of our faculty, staff and students in advancing healthcare education through innovative simulation practices,” said Carroll University President Cindy Gnadinger. “This achievement underscores Carroll University’s commitment to preparing future healthcare professionals with the highest standards of learning and professional integrity.”

Carroll’s approach aligns with best practices in simulation-based education, ensuring that each VR session includes guided reflection. The goal, Holz said, is to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and bedside application. “Nursing is absolutely a human experience,” she added. “And the best way to prepare students for that is to give them every tool possible to think, act, and reflect before they ever step into a patient’s room.”



The Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D., Chair in Cancer Research Established by the Hanley Family in Memory of Lee T. Hanley

With the establishment of The Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D., Chair in Cancer Research established by the Hanley Family in memory of Lee T. Hanley, TGen proudly recognizes Dr. Von Hoff’s remarkable contributions and significant advancements spanning nearly five decades. His groundbreaking discoveries and the development of novel anticancer agents, both within the laboratory and clinical settings, have solidified his unparalleled achievements.

Dr. Von Hoff’s unwavering dedication is evident through his direct involvement in over 400 clinical trials, as well as his extensive publication record comprising over 741 papers, 143 book chapters, and more than 1186 abstracts. His transformative work has paved the way for significant milestones, including the approval of gemcitabine as the first treatment for pancreatic cancer and the FDA approval of three out of four drugs for advanced pancreatic cancer patients.

This esteemed chair serves as the ultimate recognition for preeminent scientists and clinicians, honoring their extraordinary accomplishments in their respective fields. It perpetuates the enduring legacy of Dr. Von Hoff, ensuring his profound impact will be felt for generations to come.

In 2023, an estimated 64,050 Americans will receive a pancreatic cancer diagnosis, highlighting

the formidable and persistent nature of this disease. Known for its challenges in early detection and treatment, pancreatic cancer holds the unfortunate distinction of having the highest mortality rate among major cancers. Currently, it is the 3rd leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States after lung and colon and is expected to become the 2nd by 2030.

Throughout his storied career, Dr. Von Hoff’s exceptional research and clinical practice have consistently pushed the boundaries of biomedical knowledge and education. Today, his groundbreaking contributions and ongoing work continue to play a pivotal role in advancing the early detection and treatment of numerous cancers, including this relentless disease.

Your Impact

The Relentless Pursuit initiative creates The Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D., Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, a testament to Dr. Von Hoff’s exceptional career at TGen and within the larger medical and research community. The endowed chair position, with a focus on pancreatic cancer, ensures this vital work remains at the forefront of TGen’s commitment to early detection, smarter treatments and better outcomes for patients.

[Link to the original article.](#)

Carroll alumnus Dr. Daniel D. Von Hoff ‘69 is a leader in cancer research and the development of innovative treatments. Pioneers like Dr. Von Hoff are essential to the success of organizations like TGen, a part of City of Hope, which focuses on research aimed at improving health and treatment. Read more to learn about Dr. Von Hoff’s incredible contributions and relentless work.

“In addition to his brilliance, he is a loyal and supportive colleague. This has contributed to his special relationships with both senior and junior colleagues over the years. People have always wanted to “go to the mat” for Dan because he always makes time for people when they need him.”

*Margaret “Marge” Foti, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer American Association
for Cancer Research*



Adapting, Learning, Collaborating: Preparing Future Healthcare Leaders

A Reflection on Carroll's Interprofessional Education Experience

The World Health Organization defines Interprofessional Education (IPE) as when students from two or more professions learn from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.

Since its inception in 2016, the IPE program has addressed healthcare needs in underserved populations while equipping students with real-world experience. After completing classroom instruction in interprofessional practice competencies, students partner with community organizations to support wellness, neurodivergence, mental health, nutrition, childhood development, aging, neurocognition and more.

The benefits of the IPE program are numerous, especially when considering the complexities of working across healthcare disciplines. Carroll students gain tools to communicate effectively, understand the roles of other health professionals, collaborate to achieve client goals and ultimately provide better health outcomes.

The IPE program has partnered with local organizations such as the Adaptive Community Approach Program, Cross Lutheran, Gigi's Playhouse, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Wisconsin, Lutheran Social Services, Spring City Corner Clubhouse by Lutheran Social Services, La Casa Esperanza and the Waukesha Free Clinic.

Last semester, over 30 groups of students worked with clients throughout Waukesha. Each IPE group consists of students from at least two diverse areas of expertise, including athletic training, music therapy, nursing, Spanish, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, public health and behavioral health psychology. With feedback from a clinical faculty member, IPE groups planned and implemented wellness activities to support the community clients. A key takeaway echoed by many students is the importance of staying flexible and adapting on the spot. As one student shared, "You can plan all you want, but it's not always going to go how you expect."

The IPE program will continue to provide students with valuable learning experiences, empowering them to make a meaningful impact on the lives of current and future clients.



Addressing Wisconsin's Mental Health Crisis: How Carroll University is Responding with Compassion and Impact

Across the United States, mental health concerns are reaching crisis levels, with 1 in 5 adults experiencing a mental illness each year and over 30% reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the CDC. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, these issues have only deepened with access to care remaining staggeringly insufficient.

Wisconsin ranks 32nd in the nation for mental health provider availability, with one provider for every 470 residents. More than 70% of Wisconsin counties are federally designated as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Across the state, depression, suicidal ideation and a pervasive sense of purposelessness affect tens of thousands of residents according to Kaiser Family Foundation studies.

Carroll University is answering this crisis with innovation, compassion and community commitment through its Community Counseling Clinic (CCC)—a beacon of hope launched to address the shortage of accessible mental health care in Waukesha and the surrounding areas.

Founded to eliminate common barriers to care, the CCC offers completely free mental health services, requiring neither insurance nor proof of financial need. It is staffed by licensed faculty psychologists, volunteer practitioners from the community and graduate-level interns in Carroll's Master of Science in Behavioral Health Psychology (BHP) program.

Despite operating only two days per week for 15 weeks each summer, the CCC has made an outsized impact:

- In 2023, the clinic served 26 clients in 140 counseling sessions.
- In 2024, expanded staffing allowed the clinic to nearly double its reach—providing 182 sessions for 39 clients.

The results speak volumes with 100% of clients surveyed reporting satisfaction with the services.

Beyond serving the community, the CCC is a critical training site for students in Carroll's BHP master's program—a forward-thinking, hybrid program designed to meet the urgent need for qualified mental health professionals in Wisconsin and beyond.

Key features of the BHP program include:

- Hybrid delivery that balances asynchronous coursework with in-person clinical training.
- Use of Standardized Patients (SPs) to simulate real-world clinical challenges.
- Over 600 hours of supervised clinical experience per student.
- A 100% pass rate on the National Counselor Exam.

Many program graduates remain in Wisconsin, working in schools, hospitals, and community agencies. Six students have trained in the CCC to date, and approximately 20-23 students need clinical placements each term.

Carroll alumni who trained in the CCC are now making a difference across the region. Their stories, from overcoming early training hurdles to becoming compassionate professionals, reflect the program's deep and lasting impact.

Rocio Zylka '17, M.S. in BHP '24 is a therapist in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and a Licensed Professional Counselor In-Training at the Center for Behavioral Medicine. Zylka experienced how

the CCC gave students a space to practice collaborating with supervisors and offer genuine, meaningful support to clients.

"As someone who grew up in Waukesha, it was a rewarding experience to offer services to folks within the community," Zylka said. "It felt like a beautiful way to give back while also engaging in work I'm passionate about. It grounded me back to the 'why' of my work with people."

But the CCC offers more than just fulfilling moments. The real-world, unplanned experiences of an active, public clinic prepare students for the challenges of work in the field. There are no specific prompts, scripts or paint-by-number guides to walk students through a situation like many programs nationwide try to replicate in a classroom and the surrounding.

"The clients are real people seeking real support with very real struggles. I don't know how to get more real-world practice than that," said Zylka. "Students have the freedom to practice skills taught in the program, while being supervised by professors, to discover and develop themselves as clinicians while working in a safe environment."

Carroll's vision is to expand the CCC into a year-round operation, offering psychological assessments, group therapy and more student training slots. The potential impact is transformative: with just \$193,000 in annual funding, the clinic could operate three days a week and deliver over 4,000 client sessions per year.

Carroll University is responding to Wisconsin's mental health crisis not with words, but with action—by removing barriers to care, preparing the next generation of mental health professionals and offering high-quality, compassionate services to those that need it the most.

Two Carroll students who also worked in the CCC reflected on their experience sharing:

"The CCC demonstrates how powerful community care can be by building relationships with people who received therapy for the first time. I was grateful for that," said Sara Ruiz, M.S. in BHP '25. "It was a wonderful experience to begin to formulate who I am as a therapist and building my confidence."

Abigail Aden '23, M.S. in BHP '25 shared, "It was meaningful to provide counseling services that helped people address anxiety, depression and more. Then seeing them leave with new skills and tools was one of the most fulfilling aspects." Aden continued, "I had never conducted one-on-one counseling sessions, assessed client risk or developed a treatment plan before the CCC. Within a year, I had done all of that, and training built a strong foundation for entering the mental health field after graduation."

Through its Community Counseling Clinic and Behavioral Health Psychology program, Carroll University is not only filling a critical gap—it's building a healthier, more hopeful future for Wisconsin and beyond.



2024-25 CARROLL ATHLETICS RECAP

FALL MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Men's cross country finished sixth at this year's CCIW Championships, with Ethan Weber's 8K time (25:46.33) leading the way, 24th among individuals. Weber and Austin Sanderfoot were each named 'Pio of the Week' during the season. The Pioneers also had five runners named to the Academic All-Conference team.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Women's cross country finished seventh at this year's CCIW Championships, with Keagan Knue and Rebekah Buboltz each earning All-Conference honors with a top 20 finish. Knue was also named CCIW First-Year Student-Athlete of the Meet for her fourth-place finish at the conference meet with a 6K time (22:23.09). The Pios saw eight runners named to the Academic All-Conference team.

FOOTBALL

Carroll finished the 2024 season with a 5-5 record. That included a win against the first win against a team from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Conference (WIAC) since 1978. The Pios also ended the season by capturing "The Old Musket" in a win over Carthage in the rivalry game. Five Carroll players earned All-Conference honors at season's end, with tight end Reed Breckheimer, offensive lineman Kevin Whittmon and punter Noah Streveler being named to the First Team. Campbell landed on the CCIW Second Team. Breckheimer and Streveler were named All-Region, making the First and Second Team, respectively, while eight Pios were named Academic All-District. Streveler ended his stellar career with school records for single-season punting average (42.2) and career punting average (38.9).

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Carroll women's golf team finished their fall season in sixth place at the annual CCIW Championships. Junior Lauren Lostetter finished 17th out of the 50 competitors to lead the Pioneers with a three-day total score of +34. One highlight of the spring season came on the team's spring break trip when sophomore Maddie O'Brien recorded two holes-in-one, coming in back-to-back rounds.

MEN'S SOCCER

Men's soccer team had one of their best seasons in recent memory, finishing third in the CCIW to earn hosting rights for a CCIW Tournament game for the first time in program history. The Pioneers finished the year 9-4-5, which included a 5-2-1 conference record. Josh Gonzaga earned First Team All-Conference honors, while Marti Solanelles, Sam Dorchester and Thomas Rodriguez each earned a spot

on the CCIW's Second Team. Solanelles and Gonzaga were also chosen for the All-Region Team, while Dorchester, Solanelles, Phillip Haugerud and Matthew Meke each earned Academic All-District honors.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's soccer had an exceptional 2024 season, winning the CCIW regular season championship for the first time in program history with an undefeated and untied conference record of 8-0-0. That helped the Pioneers, who posted an overall record of 11-4-3, earn the top spot and hosting rights for the 2024 CCIW Tournament. The Pios received six All-Conference nods, which is the most the team has ever received as a member of the CCIW. Caitlin Fitzsimons, Mari Sagstad, Jessica Stepien, and Grace Tumilty were each named to the First Team. Fitzsimons was also voted CCIW Goalkeeper of the Year in a season that saw her break Carroll's program record for career shutouts, finishing her time at Carroll with 25. Fitzsimons, Sagstad, Stepien and Tumilty also received Second Team All-Region honors after the season, while Junior Carmella Nowak earned the CCIW's prestigious Elite 26 Award. The Pios also saw six players (Samantha Anderson, Blau, Fitzsimons, Sagstad, Stepien and Tumilty) earn Academic All-District honors.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's tennis finished the regular season with an 11-7 record (4-4 in the CCIW), to earn the number five seed in the CCIW Tournament. Sophomore Natasha Pupovac was named Second Team All-Conference, which marks the program's first All-Conference selection since 2020. Pupovac, Gracie Niebler, Katherine Trifilio and Makayla Counsell all earned Academic All-District honors.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball finished with their highest win total since 2018. After starting the year with a 13-2 record, which featured the program's longest winning streak this century (9), the Pios wrapped up the year with a 19-14 record. The Pioneers' lone All-Conference selection was Sophomore Kylie Wittnebel. Wittnebel also joined Rebekah Andreae, Maggie McGough and Payton Depies as Academic All-District performers. Another highlight of the season was McGough recording her 1,000th career dig.

WINTER MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's basketball finished with a 9-16 record (5-11 CCIW) during the 2024-25 season. Senior Erik Victorson was the team's lone All-Conference selection, as he was named to the CCIW Second Team after averaging a

career-high 13.9 points per game to lead the Pios. Victorson was joined by Dom Burns, Jacob Naber and Justin Steinike as Academic All-District performers this season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's basketball had another outstanding season in 2024-25, winning at least 17 games for the fourth consecutive year, the team's longest streak. Ranked 21st in all of D-III during the preseason, the Pioneers climbed as high as 13th, matching the program's highest ranking ever. Finishing the season with an 18-9 overall record (12-4 CCIW), the Pios qualified for the CCIW Tournament as the number two seed, advancing to the CCIW Championship game for the second consecutive season. Head Coach Lindsay Schultz earned her 100th career win, which also saw her earn National Coach of the Week honors after a win at 12th-ranked Hope College. Junior forward Natalie Gricius was named D-III National Player of the Week for her performance in that game. Gricius would later become the 18th player in program history to score 1,000 career points and earned First Team All-Conference honors. The team had four players (Gricius, Rangel, Wizner and Chloe Halverson) named to the Academic All-District team.

WOMEN'S BOWLING

Women's bowling experienced arguably its most successful season during the 2024-25 school year, finishing second in the conference standings, qualifying for the CCIW Tournament for the second consecutive season and third time in the last four years. They also advanced to the second and final day of the CCIW Tournament for the first time in program history. The Pios received a program-record two All-Conference selections, as sophomore Ava Butt was named to the First Team, while also earning CCIW Student-Athlete of the Year honors. Junior Hannah Bartlett was named to the Second Team and first-year Head Coach Mason Petrin was named CCIW Coach of the Year.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Carroll's swimming & diving teams had one of their greatest seasons in years in 2024-25, as the men's team finished fourth and the women fifth at the annual CCIW Championships. That meet saw Carroll swimmers record 30 lifetime-best times, with 16 relay swims that were the fastest in the last seven years and 82 personal-best relay splits. Fourteen swimmers reached the 'A Final' at that meet (up from five a year ago), while 24 Carroll swimmers competed in the 'B Final.' The CCIW Championships also featured Josie Peterson's third consecutive title in the 50 freestyle, which saw her break a school record with a time of 23.99. Peterson also broke school records this season in the

100 freestyle (52.67) and 200 freestyle (1:57.36), while Eddie McConnaha set Carroll's men's record in the 100 IM, swimming a time of 54.17 at the conference championships. The teams also combined for five Academic All-District performers.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Men's and women's track & field finished ninth and eighth, respectively, at this year's CCIW Indoor Championships. The Carroll men saw four individuals earn All-Conference honors while the Pio women had seven All-Conference performers, including graduate senior Vanessa Uitenbroek, who won the shot put for the fourth consecutive season. That helped her qualify for Nationals for the 12th time overall and fourth time in the indoor shot put, joining senior Maria Falk as a national qualifier in that event. Both student-athletes earned All-Region honors in the shot put before placing in the top eight at Nationals and earning All-American status.

SPRING BASEBALL

Carroll's baseball team finished with a 16-21 record (7-13 CCIW), missing the conference tournament by just one game. Junior centerfielder Joey Appino took down some key records this season, breaking Carroll's career mark for stolen bases, runs scored and triples. With 16 doubles, four triples and 45 runs scored, Appino was within reach of breaking the single-season record for all three. Additionally, infielder Thomas Ward led the team with 41 RBI, just six shy of the program's single-season record, while senior Lane Scott was named Second Team All-Conference.

MEN'S GOLF

Men's golf finished eighth in the CCIW Championships this spring, led by Widar Voss' three-day total of +12. The Pioneers' best finish this spring came at the Judson Invitational, which saw Carroll tie for sixth out of the 22 competing teams. The fall season was highlighted by a sixth-place finish at the 17-team Firebird Fall Classic, hosted by conference foe Carthage College. The Pioneers also finished seventh out of 14 teams at the Wisconsin Lutheran Fall Invitational.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Men's lacrosse had a historic start to the 2025 season, winning their first three games and beginning the season 4-1, which was the best start to a season in program history. The team finished 5-9 (0-4 CCIW) and set a single-season program record for goals against average (12.76).

Junior Brady Raczkowski became Carroll's first-ever All-Conference player, as he was named to the CCIW's Second Team, and

sophomore Brady Conwell broke the program record for assists (41) with two years of eligibility remaining.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's lacrosse completed one of its best seasons in program history, finishing undefeated in conference play and winning the CCIW Tournament, earning them a trip to the NCAA Tournament for the second time. The women fought hard but lost a heartbreaker in the first round of the NCAA tourney, falling 13-12 with a pair of goals allowed in the final minutes. But that doesn't take away from a phenomenal season.

Freshman Abby Tubbs was named CCIW First-Year student-athlete of the Year, ranking second on the team in goals (36). Carroll also had 8 All-Conference players, which is the program's most All-Conference selections in one season. Carroll's First Team selections include Senior Grace Tumilty, Junior Samantha Hurd, sophomores Lauren Fricke, Devon Duym, and Elizabeth Wang, and Freshman Abby Tubbs.

Sophomore Elizabeth Wang was named CCIW Offensive Player of the Year. After breaking the program's single season goals record as a freshman last season with 78, Wang has tallied team-highs in both goals (56) and points (76) this year, while ranking second on the team in assists (20).

Finally, Head Coach Michael Hodge was named 2025 CCIW Coach of the Year. He is the only head coach in the program's 11-year history and this marks his second CCIW award.

SOFTBALL

Carroll softball finished the season 14-22 (4-8 CCIW), missing the conference tournament by a single game, but sending Head Coach Amy Gradecki out in style with an 8-2 home win against Millikin. Gradecki announced her retirement, effective at the end of the season. She leaves Carroll as the winningest and longest-tenured head coach in program history, winning 273 career games in her 16 years.

One highlight of this season came in March when junior outfielder Abby Curtis broke the program's career record for stolen bases (56), and she has a chance to add to that total next season. Carroll softball also received four Academic All-District awards, with Riley Pavelka, Kiana Johnson, Jenna Andler and Kali Stanchina doing the honors.

MEN'S TENNIS

Men's tennis finished 11-7 this season, the program's highest win total since the 2016-17 school year. Seniors Adrian Gomez and Daniel Ezcurra were each named First Team All-Conference, with Gomez, Andrew LaBelle and Ryan LaBelle each earning Academic All-District honors for the Pioneers. One highlight

of the fall season came at the ITA Midwest Regional, where the Pios' doubles team of Mark Trinkina and Jack McCaffery defeated the ninth-seeded team from Carleton.

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The men's and women's outdoor track & field team had a lot of success at the CCIW Championship over the weekend, finishing the two-day meet with 16 season-bests, 40 lifetime-bests, 12 All-Conference honors.

One highlight of the CCIW Outdoor Championships was Senior Nathan Raatz breaking Carroll's men's record in the 400 meters. After breaking the 25-year-old record in the prelims, Raatz topped that record again in the finals (48.87).

Academic All-District honors for the Pioneers included Vanessa Uitenbroek and Maria Falk.



CARROLL UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS PARTNERS WITH INFLUXER TO EMPOWER STUDENT-ATHLETES

Carroll University Athletics is excited to announce a new partnership with Influxer earlier this year, an innovative Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) merchandise platform. This collaboration will give Carroll student-athletes the opportunity to sell personalized and Pioneer-branded merchandise, including custom apparel featuring their names and numbers.

Influxer, an officially licensed vendor, has worked with more than 400 schools nationwide to provide customized fan gear. Through this partnership, Influxer will also offer valuable education and training to Carroll athletes on marketing, entrepreneurship and personal branding – equipping them with skills that extend well beyond the playing field.

This initiative reflects Carroll's continued commitment to supporting its student-athletes in all aspects of their development, both on and off the field.



ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Olivia Rangel Caps Historic Career with Record-Breaking Season

Carroll University senior guard Olivia Rangel closed out her collegiate basketball career with one of the most impressive individual seasons in program history. A dynamic leader on and off the court, Rangel was named the 2024-25 CCIW Player of the Year and earned First Team All-Conference honors after finishing first in the league for scoring.

Her impact extended beyond the conference, as she was named Region 8 Player of the Year and earned a spot on the All-Region team. National recognition followed, with Rangel being selected as a Third Team All-American and a Third Team Academic All-American, highlighting her excellence both athletically and academically.

Rangel's final season also saw her break multiple program records. She set new marks for both career assists and steals, while also setting a new single-season record for steals. She finished her career with 1,653 points, making her the fourth-highest scorer in Carroll women's basketball history.

Capping her decorated career, Rangel was named a finalist for the prestigious Jostens Trophy awarded to the top NCAA Division III basketball student-athlete in the nation. She was also selected to compete in the D-III All-Star Game as one of the top 20 seniors nationwide.

Rangel leaves behind a legacy of leadership, determination and record-breaking performances that will be remembered for years to come.

Carroll University's 6th Annual Ethos Symposium

Carroll University's 6th Annual Ethos Symposium was a day-long event that provided a space for reflection and fostering transformative learning experiences for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. This year's theme, "Civility and Democracy," invited each participant to explore how we can contribute to a campus culture that values respectful engagement and collective responsibility. From the opening remarks and breakout sessions to the Cultural Showcase and Market, the event provided space to engage with one another and phenomenal practitioners and clinicians, while encouraging each attendee to absorb new perspectives. We look forward to continued participation in the symposium to create a stronger, more connected community—one where everyone feels empowered to contribute.



Save the Date for the 7th Annual Ethos Symposium on March 25, 2026!



THE REV. ELIZABETH McCORD
CHRISTO ET LITTERIS

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

Why We Educate

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

—Proverbs 9:10



THE REV. McCORD

Among Presbyterianism's greatest contributions to the world is our commitment to education. John Calvin, the father of the Reformed branch of Christianity, held education among society's greatest responsibilities. In 1559, Calvin founded what is now the University of Geneva, and since then, Reformed Christians have been advancing elementary and higher education around the globe. At a time when the role of education is being debated, it's worth remembering where we started.

We educate because God demands justice. Calvin sought to model the socio-political realm on his view of God's Realm. He didn't get it exactly right, and I doubt anyone will. However, Calvin recognized justice and equity as biblical mandates. He made free public education available to all boys and girls in Geneva, and based on these theological principles of inclusion, Presbyterians have advocated for educational access for all, regardless of gender, race, economic status or any other dividing wall. To be faithful to our mission, Carroll must always strive to do the same.

We educate in faith. Calvin taught that we come to God not through institutions, but through direct knowledge. Rooted in scriptural literacy and exchanging theological concepts, Reformers sought to build the Church through education. Liberal arts education, particularly at faith-affiliated schools like Carroll, is not just about training graduates for a job. We're about the sacred act of forming whole people who are thoughtful, principled and wise. We embrace a diversity of perspectives, knowing wisdom is not dictated by the powerful but revealed by God through a symphony of human voices.

Education is foundational for both individual and communal well-being. Academic freedom, equitable access, critical thinking and faithful inquiry are the pillars upon which our universities and society are built. God calls us to teach and to learn. Therefore, let us show our Pioneer pride by promoting higher education, and let us pursue wisdom and justice as expressions of a faith that breaks down barriers and welcomes all.

We educate because work is sacred. Calvin made a crucial theological shift by eradicating the line between sacred and secular employment. He believed all people had a divine calling to labor and serve society. Vocation was no longer reserved for clergy, but rather the sacred purpose of all people. By preparing students for vocational success, Carroll supports students' God-given purposes and asserts the holiness of any career path, whether a nurse or pastor, actor or CEO, teacher or engineer.

We educate for the well-being of society. Calvin believed every individual should contribute to the common good. He viewed liberal arts education

2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards

See the videos for each of the award winners on carrollu.edu/alumni/awards/distinguished.



Dave Shaw '77

— 2025 Pioneer Service Award —

A proud alumnus, Dave Shaw has demonstrated unwavering dedication to Carroll University. As a standout basketball player, he still holds several records, including the career points record with 2,563 points. Beyond athletics, Shaw has remained deeply involved with Carroll—serving on the Hall of Fame and search committees, advising coaches, mentoring students, attending practices and sponsoring alumni events. He and his wife, Magali, are active fundraisers and members of the Old Main Society. They regularly attend and support a wide range of university events. Shaw received the inaugural Distinguished Alumni PIOS Award for his support of student-athletes. A true advocate for the university, Shaw's contributions have helped foster a strong sense of community and a culture of excellence at Carroll. Shaw's legacy is a testament to the power leadership, service, kindness and deep commitment have in shaping Carroll—and the world—for the better.



Dorval R. Carter, Jr., J.D. '79

— 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement: The Sullivan School of Business and Technology —

Dorval R. Carter, Jr., President and CEO of Saint Anthony Hospital, former President of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and former Acting Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) during the Obama Administration, has focused his career on advancing equity through public transit. For Carter, transit is not just a service—it is a vital link to employment, healthcare, education and community. After retiring from the CTA, he became CEO of Saint Anthony Hospital, where he previously served as Board Chair—continuing a legacy begun by his father, a longtime physician and department chair. A passionate advocate for education, Carter was elected to Carroll University's Board of Trustees in 2012 and served as Chair from 2019 to 2022. He also led the Alumni Council, has made significant philanthropic contributions and has been an influential speaker at university events, supporting Carroll's mission and championing inclusion and student success.



The Reverend Janice (Love) Davis, M.S. '53

— 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement: College of Arts & Sciences —

The Reverend Janice (Love) Davis has devoted her life to faith, education and service. One of the first female voices in church leadership, she discovered her calling to ministry through active youth and church involvement. She served as Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Green Bay and then as Minister of Christian Education and Parish Life at Union Congregational UCC. Ordained in 1990, Davis later led Christian education at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Des Moines and served in numerous interim ministry positions across Wisconsin, using her expertise in Christian education. She has also held leadership roles in church education programs and served on the Great Lakes Association United Church Educators Committee for 28 years. A faithful Carroll alumna, Davis supports the university and recently celebrated her 70th Reunion. Her legacy includes positively impacting and transforming lives and communities.





Jane Vogel Mantiri, Ph.D., '75

— 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service —

Jane Vogel Mantiri has committed her life to championing equity and justice. She began her activism while an assistant track coach, where she successfully fought for equal pay for female coaches. In Oregon, she developed one of the state's first sex abuse counseling curricula for schools. As a trauma psychologist, Vogel Mantiri served in the Army and private practice, specializing in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and child protection. She also volunteered for 15 years with the Center for Community Counseling, supporting under-resourced individuals. In 2014, she founded Advance Gender Equity in the Arts (AGE) to combat inequity in theater. Now an actor, author (See JANE Run) and speaker, she continues to elevate marginalized voices. Vogel Mantiri serves on the Board of Directors for The Indo Project and remains deeply engaged in preserving Indo heritage. She remains steadfast in advocating for silenced voices.



Matthew Curtis, PT '16, DPT '18

— 2025 Graduate Of the Last Decade (GOLD) —

Matthew Curtis is a highly skilled physical therapist recognized for excellence in patient care, clinic management and leadership. Curtis quickly advanced to facility manager, transforming one of the region's bottom five performing clinics into a top three location. His guidance and strong relationships with doctors and patients led to major growth in staff and productivity. Known for his compassionate, inclusive, and solutions-oriented approach, Curtis uses humor to create a positive environment, helping patients—especially those with chronic pain—navigate recovery with optimism. He is also a dedicated mentor, supervising Physical Therapy Assistants, new graduates and veteran therapists, and volunteering as a clinical instructor for physical therapy students, including those from Carroll University. An engaged alumnus, Curtis supports Carroll through volunteer work, philanthropy and event participation, giving back to the community that helped shape his career.



Unrestricted support. Unlimited impact.

"When I am not learning how to be an awesome elementary education teacher, I am an orientation mentor, participating in the theater, leading a Greek organization, and meeting new friends. **I am living my best life!**"

— Michaela T.

The Carroll Fund is the university's most adaptable funding source in an ever-changing world, allowing leadership to address financial gaps and respond to evolving student needs. In addition to The Carroll Fund, several other funds help advance Carroll's mission and vision:

- **Academic Excellence Fund**
supports innovative teaching, cutting-edge technology, and curriculum development to ensure a dynamic and relevant education.
- **Scholarship Aid Fund**
provides financial assistance that enables students to pursue their dreams with reduced financial burden and greater opportunities for success.
- **Student Experiences Fund**
enhances campus life by funding student activities, leadership programs, events, and recreational opportunities.
- **Support Programs Fund**
ensures students have access to essential resources such as career counseling, wellness services, and academic advising.
- **Campus Community Fund**
fosters a welcoming environment and spaces where students, faculty, and staff feel supported and connected.



Make your gift by June 30
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How Can ~~I~~ We Keep from Singing?

A Look Inside Jubilate Chorale's Enduring Carroll Connection

Jubilate Chorale, a longstanding community choir based in southeastern Wisconsin, has quietly become a powerful testament to the enduring bonds formed through music and, for many members, through Carroll University. Founded more than 30 years ago by Dr. Mark Aamot, professor emeritus of choral music, the ensemble continues to thrive under the direction of Vicki Taylor, driven by the passion of its volunteer singers and the deep sense of community they share.

The choir consists of about 30 auditioned members, nearly half of whom have ties to Carroll University as alumni, faculty or former staff. One recent rehearsal captured a particularly touching moment: sopranos Bridget (Burgermeister) Smith '96 and Rachel (Monsen) Bennett '95—who first met as Carroll choir students more than 25 years ago—now stand side by side once again in Jubilate Chorale.



Bridget (left) and Rachel (right) in Rome, in January 1994, on their Carroll NCEP Concert Choir Tour to Austria and Italy.

That familiarity and warmth extend far beyond rehearsals and their annual May and December concerts. After a recent performance, singers gathered for a post-concert celebration—reminiscing, reconnecting and even catching up with former advisees turned fellow choristers. The experience underscores the ensemble's multi-generational nature and how music weaves through its members' lives.

Bridget and Rachel reflect fondly on their shared college experiences and how those bonds have endured.

"Being in classes with someone is one thing," said Rachel, "but being in choir is like being part of a family. Even if you're only together for an hour a day, it's intense—you have to work as one unit."

"The people I'm still connected to—most of them are choir people," Bridget added.

Their friendship, formed through choir, deepened when they became roommates during Bridget's junior year and Rachel's senior year. Their journeys have remained intertwined—they even met their spouses at Carroll and became godparents to each other's children.

These deep connections are part of what makes Jubilate Chorale more than just a choir. It's a community rooted in shared history, mutual respect and lasting friendship. Many singers return year after year—even after time away. Rebecca Imes, chair of the Department of Communication, Criminal Justice and Sociology at Carroll, professor of communication and member of Jubilate Chorale, took a brief hiatus from Jubilate to serve on a local school board. She was surprised upon her return to recognize Rachel from years of Homecoming events thanks to a shared connection (Rachel's husband, Chris Bennett '95!) through Carroll's Communication program.

Both Rachel and Bridget describe feeling a strong sense of belonging upon rejoining a choir. Bridget joined the choir after her husband Brian Smith '93 had been involved for many years. Rachel, who briefly sang with the ensemble 20 years ago under Dr. Aamot's direction, recently came back, saying she "needed to do it for herself."

The choir often revisits beloved repertoire, including "How Can I Keep From Singing?"—a piece cherished by many since their college days. It reflects the central role that choral music plays in their lives. The first verse of this piece encapsulates the importance of singing to the human experience:



"My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?"

"Singing is a vital form of expression," said Rebecca. "When groups come together, singing sustains and heals."

For Bridget, the return to singing was transformative:

"Singing in the choir has healed a part of my soul I didn't know needed healing," she said. "It was an incredible lift to my spirit. Making music is a part of me."

That spirit was especially evident as many members from Jubilate Chorale prepared for a meaningful event on May 24: an Alumni Choir Reunion Concert held in honor of founder Dr. Mark Aamot. The concert celebrated his legacy and the many lives he's touched through decades of music and mentorship.

In a world where time and distance often pull people apart, Jubilate Chorale stands as a living example of how music—and institutions like Carroll University—can keep people connected. For its members, singing is more than a hobby. It's a lifeline, a community and a celebration of all they've built together.

As Rachel reflected, "Creating beauty and emotion for other people is powerful."

And for Jubilate Chorale members, the question remains—how could they ever keep from singing?

For more information about Jubilate Chorale, visit <https://www.jubilatechorale.org/>



Jubilate Chorale March 16 2025
Photo credit: Paul Vassalotti



Debbie Stuart Everett '73



I was impressed the minute my parents and I stepped onto Carroll's campus for a tour and in meeting with Shirley Hilger. Carroll checked all the boxes: a broad liberal arts curriculum, small campus, attentive professors, within a day's drive from my home in Indianapolis, and so much more. I was sold before we even started the interview with Shirley!

Had it not been for P.E. MacAllister '40, a fellow church leader with my dad, who suggested we look at Carroll, my path would have been very different. It's safe to say that Carroll has influenced my life in many ways in and out of the classroom. After graduation, I was hired by Carroll as one of its admissions counselors along with 1973 classmates, Scott Kohl and Philo Hutcheson. That job set me upon a career path that included 40 years in private education as a teacher and administrator.

At Homecoming 2023, the Class of 1973 met to celebrate our 50th Reunion. Wrinkles aside, it was as if we were still hanging out in the PIT, I mean, the library. These Carroll friends, the stories we told, the professors we remembered, as well as our shared experiences, are true blessings. These blessings were made possible in part by gifts from Carroll alumni.

Both my husband, Chris, who graduated from Marian College (now University) in Indy, and I benefited from positive experiences and strong academic programs that were supported by alumni donors. Today, we believe it's our turn to support current and future students, just as those alumni of the past did for us. To that end, we have included both of our colleges in our estate planning, in addition to our annual gift. Please consider including Carroll in your will or as a gift. It is a thoughtful and easy way to say, "Thank you, Carroll."

—Debbie Stuart Everett '73

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CLASS NOTES

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

The following updates were received between May 16, 2024 and May 1, 2025

1960s

James Ullrich '63 and his wife Joy, continue as Missionaries with Missionary Gospel Fellowship of Turlock, CA.

1970s

Mark Connelly '73 has written a fascinating book titled *The Group Theatre: An Enduring Legacy* that delves into the captivating history and profound influence of the Group Theatre—the most significant acting company in America.

Kristine (Adams) Wendt '73 has been inducted into the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center (WLHC) Hall of Fame in recognition of her contributions to Wisconsin libraries for the past 50 years. Following Carroll graduation, she earned a MLS degree from UW-Madison and spent 34 years as a children's librarian and director of the Rhinelander District Library before joining the regional Wisconsin Valley Library Service staff as a local and state advocacy consultant.

Ted Rulseh '75 just released his book, *You Shoulda Been Here Last Week: Stories from an Angling Life*. Ted has also edited one book, edited and published six books, and authored three other books.

1980s

Keith Coursin '80 has been named as the new Board President of The Resource Innovation Institute (RII), a not-for-profit advancing resilient agricultural systems.

Steve Thomas '80 has been elected Chairman of the Board of the East Troy Railroad Museum (ETRM) in East Troy, WI. He has been a volunteer at the railroad for 10 years and an officer on the Board for seven years.

Julie Drake '84 has spent much of her career in the service of storytelling: first, as the founder and owner of a popular used

bookstore in Anchorage, AK, and now, with her vibrantly colored contemporary quilts.

Michael McNamara '89 has a new eighth edition of his co-authored book with J. Michael Gillette, *Designing with Light: An Introduction to Stage Lighting*, a text with which he studied in its first edition when he was at Carroll. He continues as an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

1990s

Rev. Laura Isakson Cook '93 has answered a call to pastor the United Methodist Churches in Gettysburg and Onida, SD.

Tanya Atkinson '93 was selected by the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work Board of Visitors as the 2025 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Andy Pffor '94 received a Certificate of Excellence in Instrumental Music Instruction after guiding thousands of young students in the Wauwatosa School District for 30 years.

Beyond student recruitment and band program leadership at multiple schools, highlights of Mr. Pffor's hard work are evident in key districtwide initiatives. He was instrumental in the development and ongoing success of the Wauwatosa School District's "Beginning Band Blastoff" summer band program. For 15 years the program has given beginning band students a jumpstart on their band instruments before the school year begins. Mr. Pffor was also instrumental in the development of the annual Elementary Band Festival. This celebration of the entire school district's beginning band students' hard work and progress is a culminating performance in one gigantic band of more than 250 beginning band students.

Dr. Michelle M. Braun '95, a neuropsychologist and a national leader in the field of brain health and cognitive functioning, won the Silicon Valley Venture Challenge as a Indiana University Kelley Direct Online MBA student. Her pitch, focused on improving memory and reducing Alzheimer's risk, impressed investors, earning her a \$5,000 prize and valuable feedback to develop her venture. She hopes to launch a program based on her research by the end of 2025 and will complete her MBA in May 2026.

Rebecca (Kasten) Buitendorp '98 has been appointed to the Porter County Circuit Court in Indiana by Governor Eric J. Holcomb. Rebecca is the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Porter County Prosecutor's Office.



Rhonda (Hilleshiem) Noordyk '99 is excited to announce her new book, *Bold Beginnings*. This #1 Amazon best-selling book is a guided journal that empowers divorcing women to own their worth and secure their fair share of the finances. *Bold Beginnings* is ranking at #9 on Amazon's Best Sellers in Divorce & Separation Family Law list and has been featured on Times Square!

2000s

Rex McKanry '03 earned a doctoral degree in Higher Education Leadership (Ed.D) in 2023. He is the current Dean of the School of Business, Technology, and Workforce Readiness. Rex also won the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) Innovation Award in November 2024 for the reimaging and remodeling of St. Charles Community College's Technology building.

Tracie (Jakubicz) Parent '03, was recently named as a 2025 Wisconsin Titan 100. This national program recognizes the top 100 CEOs and C-level executives in a region for their exceptional leadership, vision, passion and influence in their field. Collectively, the 2025 Wisconsin Titan 100 and their companies employ over 113,000 individuals and generate over \$118 billion in annual revenues. As COO and CFO, Tracie oversees the operations of Kahler Slater's offices and provides executive direction to finance, risk, compliance, technology, and human resources teams.

Carlo Emanuele '05 is debuting his first novel, *The Sins We Inherit*. This contemporary crime drama that focuses on family is set in Milwaukee. Carlo draws upon his own experience on the working-class South Side.

Dan Schindhelm '05 recently took part in a career advancement at RDG Planning & Design as a strategic leader in the firm's senior living market and will play a pivotal role in the growth of RDG's new Madison office.

Julie (Kottke) Stigler '06 was recently promoted to vice president of eBanking for National Exchange Bank & Trust, and is based out of the Fond du Lac office located on North Main Street.



Tamara L. Morris '09 was recently appointed to the APA Advocacy Coordinating Committee.



2010s

Justin Jasniewski '13, CEO of Serve You Rx, has been named one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's 2025 40 Under 40 honorees. Each year, the 40 Under 40 Awards

recognize rising stars in the local business world who have distinguished themselves in their companies, their communities, and their industries — all before their 40th birthday. Justin is a pharmacy benefit manager with unquestionable flexibility and unwavering commitment to doing what's best for his clients.

Samantha Derynda Thompson '13 led the Crusaders as they clenched the 2024 WIAA state title as head coach. Samantha is a Catholic Memorial two-time state champion herself when she was in high school and a four-year Pioneer on the women's volleyball team.

Amy (Wareham) Waldoch '13 and husband Caleb welcomed their son Lucas on February 23, 2024.

Ashley (Mazurek) Drwila '15 welcomes Owen Henry Drwila on Friday April 19, 2024. Weighing 9lb. 14oz.



Malerie (Kurt) James '15 and Christopher '15 James welcomed Aurora Marie James on June 9, 2024, to her family.



Tyler Ratkowski '15 is excited to announce the publication of his and his partner's first children's book titled, *Wolfie and His Two Dads*, a story about a Labrador retriever who embarks on a heartwarming adventure from California to Wisconsin to find his forever

home. Wolfie's journey underscores the universal truth that love is love. Perfect for children and families of all kinds, *Wolfie and His Two Dads* celebrates diversity, acceptance, and the joy of finding where you truly belong.



Rachel (Poenitsch) '17, PA-C '20 Rogatzki married Brett Rogatzki, in Waukesha on August

3, 2024. She is working professionally as a PA with Aurora Health Care, in Racine, WI.

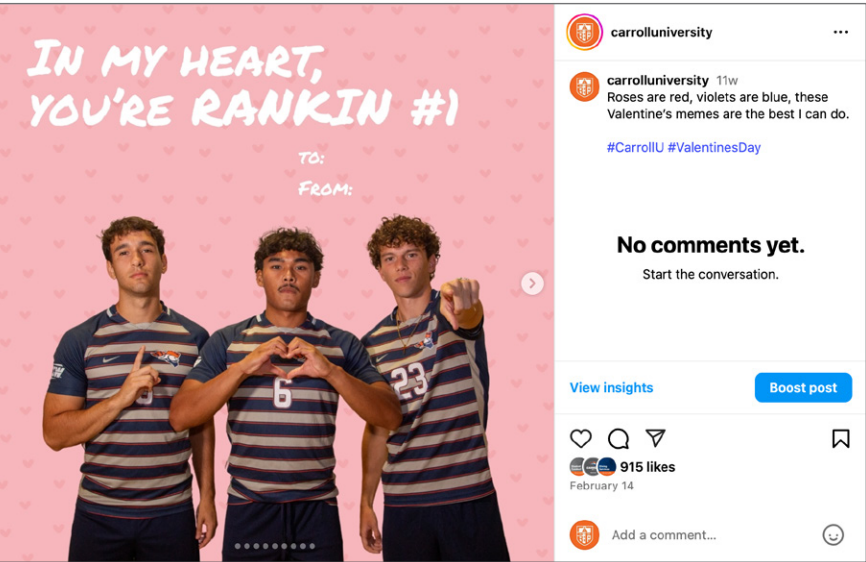
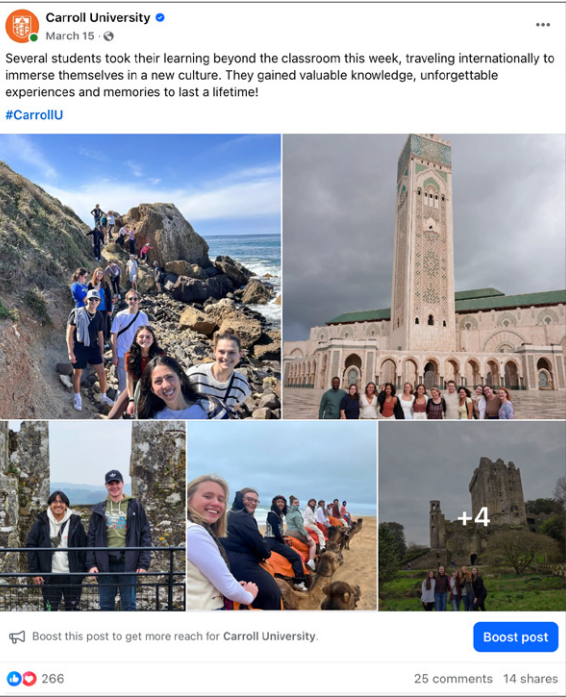
Marena (Pine) Linke '18 and her husband Andrew welcomed their second daughter River Lynn on July 18.

Frankie (Poff) Chalupsky '19 has been chosen to attend the Forbes Under 30 Summit with a full scholarship. This honor acknowledges Frankie as a leader in the technology and financial services sectors.

Carroll Faculty and Staff

Alumnus and current adjunct faculty member Robert Colletta '17 is an owner and director of photography for Agency, a hybrid cocktail bar in Milwaukee, WI. All drinks at a hybrid cocktail bar are available with or without alcohol. Agency has advanced as a finalist for Best New Bar in the United States awarded by the prestigious James Beard Foundation. The bar opened in August of 2024 inside Dubbel Dutch Hotel.

FOLLOW US FOR GREAT CARROLL CONTENT



IN MEMORIAM

The following updates were received between July 16, 2024 and May 1, 2025

1930s

Louise Treder Summers '39, age 106, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 27, 2024. Louise graduated from Carroll Summa Cum Laude with a degree in teaching.



1940s

Dorothy June Anderson '48, age 97, died peacefully Saturday, Apr. 20, 2024, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her children Jane Anderson; Margaret Anderson; Kay (David) Prusynski; Eric (Ruth) Anderson; and grandson John (Shree) Prusynski.

Paul Hardy '48 passed away on Nov. 8, 2024, at the age of 97. He is survived by his children: Steve (Marylou Doerrie) Hardy, Charlie (Susan) Hardy, Russ (Terri) Hardy, and Lynn (Joe) Smith, as well as other family members.

1950s

Paul Edward Baltzer, Jr '50, age 98, passed away on Aug. 4, 2024 at Cedar Crest with close family by his side. Paul is survived by two of his children, Dee (Donald) Birschel and Paul “Boomer” (Mary Lexa) Baltzer III; granddaughter, Ellen (Matthew) Bratz, 3 great-grandchildren: Logan, Gavin and Bailey, and other relatives and friends.

Lois Oglesby '51, age 95, passed away peacefully on Oct. 9, 2024. Lois graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's degree and went on to complete her Master's degree in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Glenn Wallace; her niece, Cathi Huerta; her two children, Bruce and Lynne Oglesby; her daughter-in-law, Cecilia Oglesby, and her three grandchildren, Bella Finkel-Holman and Sophia and Robert Oglesby.

Sue Myers '52 passed away Dec. 1, 2024 at the age of 90. Sue graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's degree in biology and was part of Beta Sigma Phi, social sorority Delta Zeta and the Biology society Tri Beta. She is survived

by her daughter Sandra (Lon) McGinness; son Scott (Shirley) Myers, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

JoAnn Holl '53 passed away peacefully on Mar. 21, 2025, at the age of 93. JoAnn graduated from Carroll with a degree in Business and was part of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She is survived by her daughter Kathy Bils (husband Tony) and her son Bob Holl (wife Lisa), her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Patricia Kennedy '53 passed away on Apr. 4, 2025, at the age of 93. A lifelong resident of Waukesha who taught at various elementary schools, enjoyed watching the Packers and loved her family. She is survived by her children: Ann Kennedy, Eileen (Johnnie Johnson) Kennedy and Pete (Karol) Kennedy; her grandchildren: James (Hilary) Kennedy, Alison (Rob) Kennedy Kohs, Patrick Kennedy and Tess Johnson; and great-grandchildren: Sula, June, and Liam Kennedy and Lillian Kohs, as well as other family members.

Maxine Cayce-Cashman '54, age 92, of De Pere, passed away peacefully on Jan. 28, 2025, at her home. Maxine graduated from Carroll with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. She is survived by Gregg (Julie) Cayce, Brian Cayce, Scott Cayce, Sean Cayce, and other family members.

Joseph T. Treleven '54 peacefully passed on Feb. 27, 2025, at the age of 92. He is survived by his friends and children; Stephanie & Dan, Felicia & Jim, Michael, Valerie & Richard, along with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joesph Jackson '55 passed away on Mar. 23, 2025. He is survived by his children, Sandra (Michael) Schick and Robert (Abbie) Jackson; his beloved grandchildren, Daniel (Sarah), David, and Timothy Schick, and Samuel and Molly Jackson; and great-grandchildren, Hannah and Lucas Schick. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Doris Kramer, as well as nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Karen Elizabeth Allen '56 of Chippewa Falls, WI, passed away on Sept. 26, 2024, at The Classic

at Hillcrest Greens in Altoona, WI, at the age of 89. Karen is survived by her husband Robert, her four children: James (Claudia French) Allen, Christine (Paul) McGinnis, Richard (Lisa) Allen, and Elizabeth (David) Hartz; 10 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and her sister Lynne (James) Goheen.

Paul A. “Dusty” Dusterhoft '56 passed away at Waukesha Memorial Hospital on Feb. 28, 2025, at the age of 90. He is survived by his two daughters Pamela (Douglas) Ewing and Kathleen (Scott) Ciesielczyk, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family members.

Jane Wiley Irving '56 passed away on Dec. 18, 2024, at the age of 90. It was at Carroll where she met the love of her life, Richard Irving ‘53. They married in 1954 and spent almost 60 years together.

Wayne Jay Armstrong '57 passed away peacefully on Jan. 27, 2025, with his family at his side at the Jack and Engrid Meng Unity Hospice facility at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife Nadine, children Jay (Michele) Armstrong, Joy (Gregg) Pokel, Jon (Shari) Armstrong, and other family members.

Joyce E. Schaller '57 passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sept. 8, 2024, at the age of 89. At Carroll, Joyce majored in Sociology with minors in Psychology and Art. She was also part of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She is survived by her four children; Betty (John) Kreckling, Patty (Ricky) Chones, Donna (Jeff) Crump and Fred (Karen) Schaller, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Elaine Cerwin '58 passed away on Mar. 16, 2025, at age 89. Elaine is survived by her children, Debra Cerwin, Todd (Deanna) Cerwin and Janet (Dwight) Johnson, as well as her cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carol Jean Karlslyst '58 passed away on Feb. 26, 2025. She is survived by her son, Richard (Pam) Karlslyst, daughter, Jean Karlslyst Dorney, and daughter, Susan (Mike) Karlslyst Sanderson as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other extended family members.

Scott Lundal '58 passed away Jan. 23, 2025. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Janice, and their five daughters: Jennifer (Jeff), Amy (Mike), Krissy, Elizabeth (Jennifer), and Sarah (George); granddaughters Luci and Maribel; and sister, Marilyn.

Joy Beverly Skow '58 passed away on Mar. 5, 2024 at age 87.

Vernon E. Trecek '58, age 89, proud founder of Trecek Automotive, passed away peacefully on Jan. 5, 2025.

Sandra Chalupa '59, age 87, passed away peacefully on Sept. 16, 2024. Sandra is survived by her friend and companion, Lowell Iverson; her sister Sharon Reader; her nephew John Narva, and a family of friends.

Dora Mae Lemke '59, age 87 passed away peacefully on March 3, 2025. After graduating Carroll Magna Cum Lade, she began her successful teaching career. Dora is survived by her loving husband, Alan Lemke, her daughter, Laura Pippin (William) and her son, Mark Lemke.

Bette Ann Wielert '59, age 87, passed away peacefully on Mar. 19, 2025, surrounded by her family. Bette is survived by her three children, Jeff (Kim) Wielert, Amy (Matthew) VanLanduyt and Debbie Meyer (Brad Treadwell); six grandchildren, Cory (Kristin) Wielert, Aleah Meyer (Cecil Rodriguez), LeNeigh (Jordan) Saldana, Andrew (Jess) VanLanduyt, Grant VanLanduyt, and Taylor VanLanduyt; eight great-grandchildren, and other family and friends.

1960s

Anna Mae Badciong '60 passed away peacefully on Nov. 2, 2017.

As a member of the Carroll Alumni Association and many other local organizations she will be very missed. She is survived by her husband Franklin and their sons, Steven (Ruth) Badciong, Jeffery (Jean) Badciong, and James (Julie) Badciong as well as other family members.



Ron Jensen '60, age 86, passed away on March 13, 2024 from a sudden cardiac event. He graduated with a

BA in Business Administration in 1960. He was a 4-year letter winner in football and golf. He was inducted into Carroll's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992 for his storied football career as First Team Quarterback. Ron is survived by his wife, Karen, his daughter, Sheri (Chris Cowperthwait), and his son Steve (Traci) and three grandchildren, Nicole and Jaime Sandberg and Ava Jensen; and other family members.

Bob “Rock” Rakow '60, age 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Feb. 26, 2025. Bob is survived by his two sons Kevin and Jim, Jim's wife Holly, their two children Adam and Ally Rakow, sister June Urbanek and seven nieces and nephews.

Karl Edward Peters '61, age 85, of Granby, CT passed away on Feb. 12, 2025. After receiving his bachelor's degree at Carroll, Karl received his Master of Divinity at McCormick Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Philosophy at Columbia University.



He went on to become a professor emeritus at Rollins College, a former adjunct professor at the University of Hartford and Meadville Lombard Theological School, co-editor of Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science, a founder of the University Unitarian Universalist Society, and an influential figure in the development of Religious Naturalism, publishing three books and holding leadership roles at the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS). Karl is survived by his stepchildren Paul Davis, Anne (husband Bob Pickart), and Mark (wife Valerie Davis), along with his grandchildren, Jana, Matt, Sarah, David, Greg Pickart, Amelia, and Nora Davis.

Gary R. Meinert '62, Gary Meinert passed away peacefully on April 7th, 2024, in Sebring, FL at the age of 84. As a business major, he gained the foundation to run his family's business, R.E. Meinert Co., after his parents passed away. He is survived by his daughter, Tracy, and Karlyn (Kuester) Meinert ’61, his wife of 61 years, that he met at Carroll.

Ronald R. Humcke '62 He is survived by his wife, Joan (Westhauser) Humcke ‘60.

Sharon Minten '62, age 85, passed away on Dec. 21, 2024, at her home

in Egg Harbor. Sharon was a founder and partner of Olejniczak Realty in Green Bay and had been vice president retiring after 23 years. She is survived by her husband, Richard Minten; daughter, Cynthia (Richard) Barrett ; son, Richard Jr. (Nancy) Minten ; son, Steven (Wendy) Minten; eight beautiful grandchildren;and sister, Sandi Halbrook.

Janet Ross '62 passed away after a fight with dementia on Jan. 19, 2025, at the age of 84. She is survived by her loving family and friends.

Lynn Madden '63 passed away on Mar. 8, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Nan Madden; his daughter Kristie Miller (Jack Miller); and his son Michael Madden; his brother Steve Madden and his sister-in-law Sue Dozeman (Dave Dozeman); his grandson Mickey Miller and his grandson Cam Miller; nephew Doug Dozeman (Amy); niece Angie Berkenkamp (Jay); and niece Kelly Oswald (Mark)

William Ellsworth “Bill” Bible '64 passed away on Feb. 4, 2025, at age 82. Graduating from Carroll with a degree in Mathematics, he dedicated his life to the telecommunications industry. Bill is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne; his daughter Lise; sister-in-law Sally Jensen; nephews Scott Jensen and John and Peter Holmberg; cousins Connie Kappel and Christine (Jeff) Baker.

Larry M. Eils '64, age 82, of Oshkosh, WI, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 7, 2025, at Ripon Community Hospital. Larry is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Marsha Eils; daughters Kristine Shultis and LoriAnn (John) Redmond; and four grandchildren.

David Henderson '64, age 81, passed on Jan.23, 2024, at home surrounded by family. David is survived by his wife, Gail; his daughters, Erin and Liz; his four grandchildren, Addy and Crosby Russell and Elysse and J.C. Keck; his sons-in-law, James Keck and Joe Russell; his brother, Robert Henderson; as well as other extended family members and friends.

Don Plier '64 passed away Mar. 17, 2025. Don is survived by his wife, Julie, brother Douglas (Beth) Plier of Horicon and sister Deborah (Robert) Tenner of Minneapolis. He is also survived by friends Jim Clark, Jon McCall, Daryl and Barbara Sullivan, along

with cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Craig Black '66 passed away on Mar. 30, 2024. After graduating from Carroll with a degree in geology, he went on to study at Wayne State and then got his master's degree from Arizona State University. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lynnette Black; brother, David Black; sister in-law, Deborah Palmatier; three children, Jenny (Troy) Gibson, Katie (Bryon) Black and Steven (Jennifer) Black; his two stepsons, Jared and Clint Adamovich, and nine grandchildren.

Thomas J. Rice '66, age 80, passed away on Mar. 21, 2025, surrounded by his family after a brief illness. Tom is survived by his wife, Sue Rice; four children: Kevin (Lynda), Doug (Kristen) Rice, Jeff (Leigh Ann) Rice, and Sarah (Billy) Spaker; 20 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Gerald (Marge) Rice.

Dr. Larry Phillips Gough '67 passed away peacefully on Jan. 31, 2025, at his home in Oakton, Virginia, at the age of 80. Larry’s academic and professional journey left an indelible mark on the field of environmental science, with more than 48 published works as a Botanist/Biochemist with the United States Geological Survey. He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon, and their two sons. Larry is the son of the late Mary (Rankin) Gough ‘45; and sibling to Stephen ‘72 and James ‘82 Gough.

Sandy DeWalt '68 passed away on Feb. 13, 2025, at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee. Sandy obtained a degree in Special Education.

Kurt A. Gearing '68, age 76, passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer on Jan. 30, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Helen, daughter: Jennifer Balma (John), son Eric Gearing (Tessa), 2 step sons: Jason Kruse (Angelina) and Reggie Kruse (Mindy) as well as other family members.

Marilyn Swanson '68 passed away peacefully on Aug. 4, 2024. She is survived by her husband Savvas, her sister Joan -married to Bob, her cousin Bill, her nephew Steven -married to Barb- and their daughters Madeline, Emily and Rennie.

Patricia Hanes Meyer '69 passed away on Oct. 11, 2024, at age 77 in Wilmington, NC. Patricia is survived by her former husband

Scott Meyer; children Jennifer, Claire, and John; as well as other family members.

William “Bill” J. Rauschenberger '69, age 77, died peacefully at home on Feb. 7, 2025. He is survived by his wife Peg; daughters Meg and Mandy; and three grandchildren: Evan, Audrey, and Leah.

1970s

Shareen Evenstone '70 passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on May 14, 2024, at age 75. Shareen studied Psychology and Sociology while at Carroll before becoming a social worker for Milwaukee County. She is survived by her children Amanda (Dawn) Siebert-Evenstone, Lauren (Zach) Stephen, and Allison Evenstone; her grandchildren, Camden, Ella, and Bennett; her brother, Jon Stowe; her sister-in-law, Sonia Shields and her extended family.

Karlett Bever '70, age 76, died peacefully on Jan. 8, 2025, at Oldorf Hospice House in Hiawatha. Karlett is survived by her husband of 54 years, Tony; daughters, Kim (Adam) Alles and Amanda (Andy) Karr; and four grandchildren: Quinn, Lincoln, Nick, and Amelia.

Ted Baker '71 passed away Nov. 24, 2024. He is survived by his wife Connie Cummins, son Scott Baker, daughter Janet Baker, granddaughters Lorelee and Faith Baker, sister Judi Baldwin (Bill) and other family members. Ted proudly served on the Carroll Board of Trustees for 16 years from 2001-2017. He was a loyal donor throughout the years and a champion for Pioneer Athletics naming the Ted H. Baker Court in Van Male Fieldhouse.

Leigh F. Joost '73 passed away on Dec. 27, 2024. She was a beloved wife of Thomas L. Joost Jr. and a loving mother of Thomas L. Joost III.

Carol L. (Prosser) Spicer '73 passed away July 29, 2024. Carol is survived by her husband of 34 years, Gregory; son, Christopher; stepdaughter, Amanda; and step grandchildren, Chloe and Danica.

Joy Ann Iaquina '74 passed away Dec. 14, 2023. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Music she studied music at the University of Indiana School of Music and the University of Minnesota. She is survived by her beloved father-in-law, Dr. Frank E. Iaquina; her son and caretaker, John Iaquina; her daughters, Helena and Samantha

IN MEMORIAM

The following updates were received between July 16, 2024 and May 1, 2025

Iaquinta; and Deborah Adedokun and her grandchildren along with other family members.

Charles (Chuck) F. Brotz '75, age 71, passed away on Sept. 18, 2024. He received a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a minor in History from Carroll. Following that he attended the University of Iowa to obtain a master's degree in public affairs. He is survived by his two sisters, Patricia (Tom) Strigel and Susan Stryck; and his brother, Thomas Brotz.

John Edward Leslie '76 passed away on the morning of Sept. 17, 2024. At Carroll, John was a member of the Delta Rho Upsilon fraternity and played alto saxophone in both the marching and jazz bands. He received the Junior Award, awarded to an outstanding junior student, and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He is survived by his loving and caring wife, Jane Leslie '79; son Michael (Katie) Leslie; and other relatives and friends.



Tod C. Koehler '76 passed away on July 8, 2024, at the age of 69. Tod graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's in Physics and went on to complete his Master's degree at the University of Illinois. He is survived by one son, Christopher Koehler; along with his mother, Marion S. Koehler; his brother, Tom; three sisters, Cory, Wendy and Paula (Koehler) Forman '86. He studied under the late Dr. Paul Roys and worked for several years as his teaching assistant.

Rev. Dr. James (Jim) W. Klein '77 passed peacefully on Oct. 22, 2024, surrounded by family. James graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's in history and theater education. He then went on to complete his Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Ministry from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Mary Klein, sons Dr. Benjamin Klein (Ruth Bergman),

and Nicholas Klein, daughter Rev. Claire Klein (Jacob Ristow), and grandchildren Rowan, Ellieana, Jocelyn & Olive, and brothers David and Jerry.

Philip Bowman "George" Roth '77, age 69, died unexpectedly of natural causes on Jan. 9, 2025, at his home. He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Gail; children Christopher (Jana) Burnworth and Corey (Stephanie); and other relatives and friends.

Robert Goshgarian '78 passed away peacefully at home on Sept. 17, 2024. After earning his bachelor's degree from Carroll he obtained his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University School of Law. He then established a law firm in Waukegan, IL. where he practiced as an attorney for over 40 years, earning Martindale-Hubbell's preeminent rating of AV - the highest for ethical standards and legal ability. He is survived by his sister Eve (Paul) Shira, his brothers, Richard Goshgarian and Ara (Christine) Goshgarian '84 and other relatives and friends.

Vivian Arlene Schutte '78, age 93, passed away peacefully on the morning of Nov. 7, 2024. Vivian graduated from Carroll with a Bachelor of Science and went on to pursue a career as a nurse until retirement. She is survived by her daughters Barbara (Daniel) Le Duc and Jane Schutte; and other relatives and friends.

Steven Richard Sheppard '78 passed away peacefully in the arms of family members on Mar. 3, 2023, at age 67. He is survived by his wife Nancy Sheppard, son Scott Sheppard (Renee Blinkwolt), Brian Sheppard (Zoe Shannon), and his siblings Paul Sheppard, Bob (Dian) Sheppard, Judy (Jim) Stoltenberg.

Jeanine Becker '79, age 67, passed away peacefully on Oct. 6, 2024. She earned a vocal scholarship to Carroll, where on her first day of classes, she met her future husband, Douglas Pruitt, with whom she shared 45 years of marriage. Jeanine is survived by her two children, Collin (Nora) Pruitt and Christine (Nick) Carini.

Joan Kuehl '79 passed away on Aug. 11, 2022. Joan was a lifelong educator who, after retiring as deputy chief of schools for the Racine Unified School District, continued to teach at UW Parkside,

Alverno College, and Marquette University, while also mentoring student teachers and supporting first-year teachers in Milwaukee Public Schools. She is survived by her husband and two daughters.

1980s

Cynthia Spencer '80 passed away on Dec. 19, 2024, at the age of 65. She is survived by her husband Matt Goebel; Wayne (Christina Schaefer) Spencer; Jenny (Dave) Strigens; Carrie (Dave) Ghose; and other family members.

Dr. Keith Robert Hansen '83 passed away on June 12, 2024, due to glioblastoma. He earned a BA from Carroll College (WI) and an MA from Miami University (OH). He worked at three colleges in Connecticut and Indiana before returning to Ohio to earn his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University. He is survived by Lori, his wife of nearly 38 years, his son Eric; his daughter Katy; his mother Illa Mae; his sisters Pamela Hansen Ruben; Sharyn (Jim) Massung; and Jean Hansen as well as other family and friends.

Thomas Schwarz '86 passed away on Mar. 28, 2025, at age 61. After graduating Carroll with a degree in chemistry he went on to develop paper tape used by hospitals nationwide. He is survived by his wife Lora Totton-Schwarz; their child, CJ Schwarz – formerly Thomas James Schwarz; a brother Todd E. Schwarz; a cousin Dale (Amy) Liikala; and in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Salvatore (Ted) Louis Ferrara '88 passed away peacefully in the arms of his family on Oct. 29, 2024, in Waukesha, at the age of 83. Ted is survived by his loving wife Polly and children Amy Ferrara and Bart (Brandy) Ferrara. He is further survived by his adored granddaughters, Clementine and Maribel.

Dr. Timothy Nels Christiansen '89, age 58, passed away peacefully at home on Mar. 9, 2025. Timothy graduated Carroll with a double major in biology and chemistry and went on to complete his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. Tim is survived by his loving wife, Marie; his children: Dr. Hope Christiansen and her husband, Trieu Ho;

sons Benjamin Christiansen, Nicholas Christiansen, and Jacob Christiansen; and daughter, Hannah Christiansen and her husband, Alfredo Fernandez and other family members.

1990s

Gloria Jean "Glo" Brennan '90, age 91, passed away on Mar. 7, 2025. After earning her BSN at Carroll Gloria dedicated many years of hard work to patients at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. She is survived by her children Mark (Michael) Ing, Clare (Jeff) Peiffer, Margaret (Jon) Behm, and Geri Brennan and other family members.

Mary Baker '91, age 61, passed away on Sept. 3, 2021. Mary was a teacher in the Waukesha School District for 23 years. She is survived by family and friends.

Patricia Hendricks '91, age 77, passed away on July 23, 2024. She is survived by her brother, William James Bader and his wife Peggy; her children, Scott Hendricks and Meridith Hendricks, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other family members.

Friends of Carroll

Thomas Anderson passed away Mar. 14, 2024, at age 91. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his brother, Lee, and his wife, Mary Lou, sister-in-law Martha Hunter, his sons and their spouses Steve and Liz, Brian and Susie, and Craig and Alice , his six grandchildren, Kayla (Zach), Alex (Emily), Evan (Molly), Ben (Laura), Holly and Mary Kate and other family members.

Joyce I. Berens passed away on Mar. 21, 2024. She is survived by her daughter Beth Hayner, son Greg Hayner, grandson Justin Hayner, many nieces and nephews, and a sister-in-law.

Everett Dale Borth passed away on July 24, 2024, at the age of 89. Everett is survived by his wife Marleen; children David (Mary) Borth, Diane (Paul) Boxrud, and Dale (Julie) Borth; and other family members.

David Hall Bruning, PhD passed away suddenly on May 9, 2024, at the age of 72. He is survived by his loving wife Kathy Bruning, their son John (Casey) Bruning and grandchildren, Hazel and Silas

Bruning, as well as other family members.

Darrah Perry Chavey, age 69, of Beloit, WI, passed away on Jan. 6, 2024, surrounded by family, from complications following heart surgery. A beloved educator for nearly 40 years at Beloit College, he was also an accomplished ballroom dance teacher, international lecturer, and passionate collector of speculative fiction. Darrah is survived by his spouse, Peggy Weisensel Chavey; children Rhiannon (Stephen) Rudisill and James (Lexie) Chavey; and other family members.

Laverne (Krause) Drover, age 95, passed away on May 16, 2024. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, David and Bonnie Krause; daughter, Deborah Krause; grandchildren, great-grandchildren as well as other relatives, and friends.

Edward John Fesco of La Salle passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on May



21, 2024, at the age of 93. He is remembered for his 60-year medical career, deep love for his family, and passion for the outdoors, leaving behind a legacy of service, education, and kindness to all who knew him. He is survived by his children: John, Nora, Carol, and Beth Fesco; grandsons: Michael (Elizabeth) Williams, Carlo Ballerine, Darren, and Corey Fesco; and three great-grandsons: Kayden, Kerry, and Kane Williams.

Francis Fincutter, age 79, passed away on Mar. 23, 2024. Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Doris; their children, Lynette (Alec) Ellsworth, Bill (Ann) Fincutter, Laura (Brad) Riesen, and Andy (Julie) Fincutter; and 15 grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Ruthann Guendert and several nieces and nephews.

Fintan Martin Flanagan, age 97, of Oshkosh, passed away on Sept. 19, 2024, at his residence at River Mill Condominiums, surrounded by family. Fintan is survived by children Michael Fintan Flanagan (Mary Beth), James Patrick Flanagan (Angie), and Sally Flanagan Cashin (Patrick); son-in-law J. Kevin Donovan; and other family members.

Ronald D. Giles, age 83, of Jefferson, passed away peacefully on Nov. 25, 2018, at Rainbow Hospice Inpatient Center from complications of dementia. Ron is survived by his wife Rita; daughter Suzanne (Paul) Triezenberg; four grandchildren; one sister; and other relatives and friends.

Edward Gumz passed away on Apr. 16, 2024.

James "Jim" Edward Haney passed away on Dec. 10, 2023, at the age of 76. He is survived by his loyal wife of 53 years, Kathleen (nee Lodes) Haney; son James Haney; and daughter Jill (Kevin) Novak.

Gerald "Jerry" L. Hepp passed away on June 24, 2024, at the age of 71. Jerry is survived by his wife, Linda Hepp; son, Ryan (Mallory) Hepp; daughter, Casey (Travis) Riggs; grandchildren, Colby, Myles, Levi, Elowyn, and Keaton; brothers, Dale, Dave (Jane), Russ (Jill), and Ron (Laurie) Hepp; sisters, Shari Nienow and Rose (Vic) Anderson; several in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Patricia Alice Koel, age 81, passed away on Mar. 19, 2024. As a teacher's assistant in the Waukesha School District, Pat touched the lives of many students with her dedication and kindness. Pat is survived by her husband Harry Koel, sister Chris Van Vooren (Denny), sons Dale, David (Laura), Daniel (Jennifer), Douglas (Nadja), grandchildren Danielle (Mitchell), Kennady, Ali (Kaleb), Phoenix, Grant, Elyssa, Jocelyn, Jimmy, Jayson, and great-grandchild James.

Gerald E. "Jerry" Kraus, age 77, passed away unexpectedly at his home on May 18, 2024. He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon, his daughters Deborah (Seth) Ebel, Rebekah (Andrew) Barrette, and Elizabeth (Andrew) Palmini; and cherished grandchildren Ellie, Joseph, and Henry Ebel, Peter and Callen Barrette, and Maxton Palmini; and other family members.

Jane Stockwell Landon, age 63, passed away on July 23, 2024, in San Diego. Jane is survived by her husband, John, sons, John and Joseph; brothers, Dean, Mike, and Robert Stockwell; sister, Sue Stockwell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Douglas "Doug" E. Leicht, age 83, of Lyons, passed away unexpectedly, July 30, 2024, at his home. Doug is survived by his wife, Gail; children,

Carol (Brad) Scharfenorth and Jeanette Brey; and grandchildren, Benjamin Potteiger, Colten Brey and Beau Brey.

James Lila passed away on Feb. 19, 2024, at age 86.

Donald Eugene Moe, age 95, passed away on May 19, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Helen; seven children Kris (Dan) Ohlmann, Steve (WindSong), Mike (Linda), Martha (Dale) Turner, Mary (Tim) Tullis, Sue, and Jackie (Gary) Ebert as well as his seventeen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren with another arriving soon.

Theodore R. Bryant-Nanz passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 1, 2025, at the age of 64, surrounded by his loving family. Theodore is survived by his beloved wife, Noëlle Bryant-Nanz, and their two children: Anya Grace (Marques Seib) Bryant-Nanz and Leah Theodora Bryant-Nanz. Ted is the son of the late Robert Nanz '51 and grandson of Dr. Ralph Nanz, professor emeritus of biology.

Benjamin "Ben" A. Pflederer, age 79, passed away on Mar. 25, 2024. Ben is survived by his wife, Sharon; children; Angela, Chris and Stephanie; grandchildren Lennox, Wyatt, Stella and Emmett.

Alyard Rahn, age 87, passed away on June 17, 2024. He is survived by Survivors his wife Judy, son, Chris "C.J." Rahn; siblings, Irene (James) Worminghaus, Eldon Rahn, Virginia "Ginny" Genske, and other family members.

Lyn Diane Robinson, age 83, passed away peacefully on Sept. 19, 2024. She is survived by her daughters,



Carrie (Richard), Debbie (Richard), and Jodi (Kyn); grandchildren: Alexander, Josephine (Brittany), and Katherine, Max

and Sam. She was a retiree from Carroll serving in administrative support from 1998-2006.

Karl Martin Romstad passed away peacefully on Feb. 27, 2024, at age 83 after bravely battling Alzheimer's Disease. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Constance (Hatlen) Romstad; sons Keith (Lyn) Romstad and Kurt (Kerry) Romstad; daughter Karla (Stephen) Armes; and other family members.

Elizabeth Sellars passed away Jan. 19, 2025, at the age of 99. She is survived by her children Kathy (Jeff) Huntsinger, John (Deb) Sellars '79, Bill (Julie) Sellars, and Tom (Liz) Sellars '82, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Serak, age 78, passed away on Jan. 6, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Jan Serak, and two children; Benjamin and Jeffrey (Annie).

Robert "Bob" Schuler, age 84, passed away on Mar. 2, 2024, following a brief illness. Bob is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elaine; their two children: daughter Sarah; and son David (Peter Heyer), as well as other family members.

Patrick Grady Spencer passed away July 15, 2024. He is survived by his wife Grace (Mighall) Spencer, daughter Jennifer Kathleen Walter, son Jason Christopher and his wife Allison (Ceponis); grandchildren Eirwyn Grace and Grady John Spencer; sister Jo Ellen Spencer and other family members.

Wayne Staff passed away on Jan. 10, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Kim Staff; their children, Katlin (Mitch) Theder and Courtney Staff; one sister, Sharon (Larry) Zartman; one sister-in-law, Vicki Staff; and other relatives and friends.

James Jerome Themar passed away peacefully on June 27, 2024, in Wauwatosa, WI, at the age of 87. Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Pauline, and his loving children, Michael (Lori) Themar, Michelle (Danny) Rader, and Melissa (Robert) Geck; his grandchildren Gabriel, Sam, Henry, Bobby, James, Helen, and Kucera; his great-grandchildren Kilian and Emerald; sister, Evelyn (late Charles) Tuma, and his stepsons, Stephen and Ian (Elizabeth) Gould.

Denis Utech passed away July 10, 2024, at age 83. Denis is survived by his wife, Jean (Meno); his children, Michele (Steven) Loehner and Robert (Leslie) Utech; his grandchildren, Ally (Robert McCormick) Cashmore and Jake Utech; his sister, Rita Knudsen; and several nieces and nephews.

SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING, REUNION & FAMILY WEEKEND

October 9-12, 2025

Thursday, Oct. 9

- Old Main Society Celebration
(Invite only dinner for donors of \$1,000 or more to Carroll)

Friday, Oct. 10

- **Class of 1975 50th Reunion Dinner** and Golden Pioneer Induction
- Pioneer Party with the release of the limited-edition 2025 Homecoming beer
- 55th Reunion Gathering at Thunder Bay Grill

Saturday, Oct. 11

- Golden Pioneer Brunch Reunion
- Tailgating, Future Pioneer Kids Area, Parade and more!
- **Football Game** vs. North Park at 2 p.m.
- **Grand Reunion** celebrating all Pioneers across the years with special recognition for class reunions ending in a 0 or 5.
- Music, Ponza Rottas, decade-themed trivia, music BINGO, a photo booth, silent auction and more!

Sunday, Oct. 12

- Annual Carroll Memorial Worship Service honoring classmates and all Pioneers who have passed away since last Homecoming season.

Questions?

For a complete listing of events, visit carrollu.edu/alumni/events.

Contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at alumni@carrollu.edu or 262-524-7237.



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