

# first

THE MAGAZINE  
OF CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2026

**PIONEER PETE  
HISTORY TIMELINE**  
See the Evolution of Pio Pete  
**CARROLL FACULTY'S 30-YEAR  
TRADITION OF BUILDING  
COMMUNITY OVER COFFEE**  
Three Decades of Memories and Friendship

## CARROLL UNIVERSITY'S

*180-Year Journey Through Time*

*A historical timeline from 1846 through today*



# PIONEER PETE HISTORY TIMELINE



**American Hero**



**Pontificating Pete**



**Puffed Up Pete**



**You Talkin' to Me?**



**Unarmed and Dangerous**



**Embrace the C**

1948

Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett? The first Pio Pete looked quite like a famous American woodsman, with his cap and a lot of fringe.

1950

By the early 1950s, Pio Pete adopted spectacles for a more intellectual look. Pete appeared content to let sleeping dog lie.

1976

The Pio Pete of the 1970s was full of pride—or wearing an inflated life vest. That fringe is stretched!

1985

Later in the '80s, Carroll unveiled a tougher, burlier Pio Pete. Look at those guns!

1995

Sometime in the '90s, Pete put away the rifle. Who needed it? He looked tough enough without it!

2005

In the 2000s, Pete really took hold of his Pioneer heritage.

**The latest version of Pioneer Pete [as pictured above] was adopted in 2016**

# first

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

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

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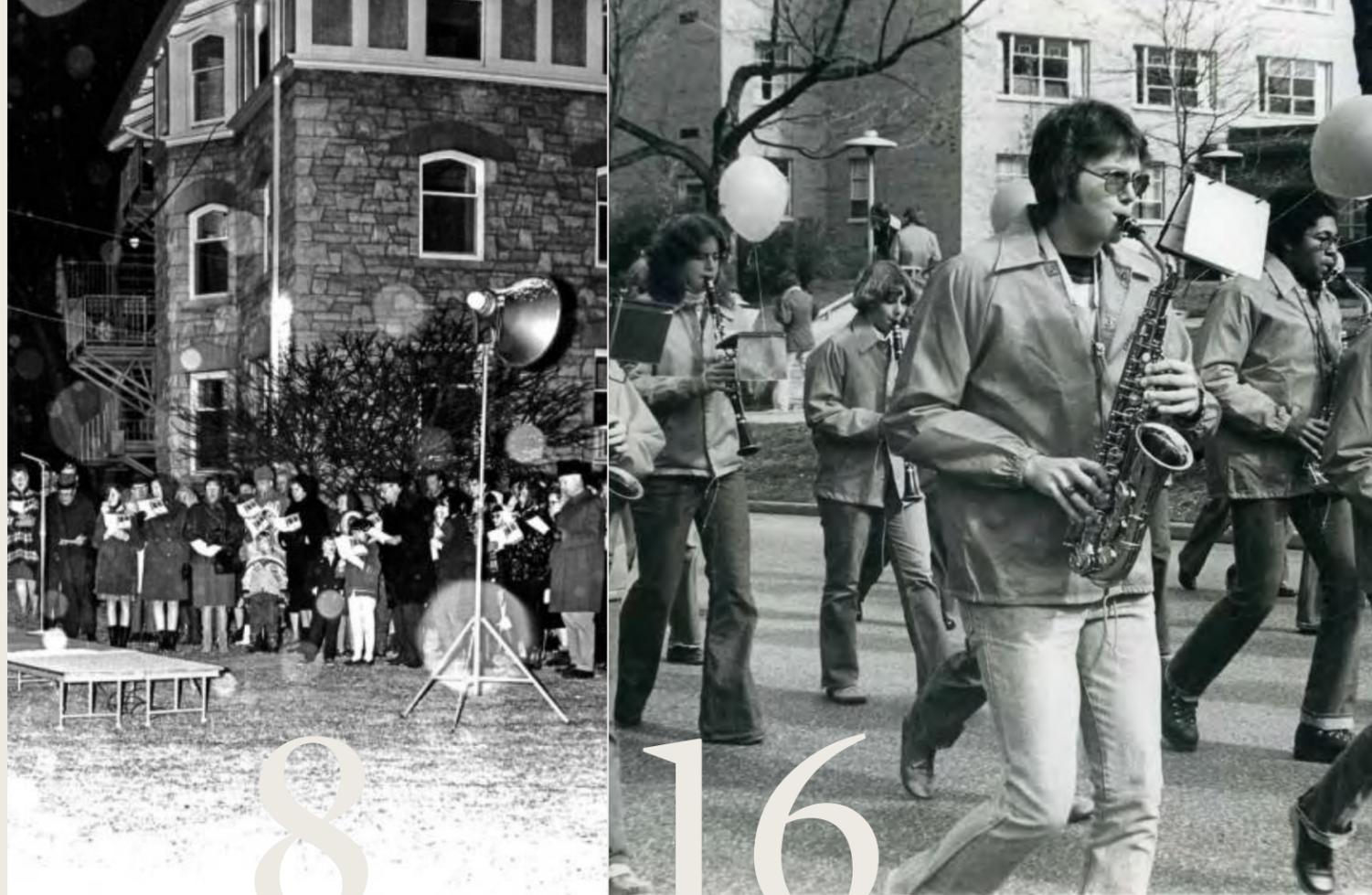
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A Historical timeline from 1846 through today

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Carroll's Main Hall has evolved over the years, yet has proudly preserved its historic integrity—standing as a timeless anchor of the Carroll campus.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — A SERIES OF FIRSTS AS WE ENTER OUR 180TH YEAR!

**F**IRST – Happy New Year to our Carroll family! I hope the close of 2025 was filled with joy and happy gatherings with family and friends, and that the dawn of 2026 brings you many things to be hopeful about in the new year!

As we greet you halfway through the 2025-26 academic year, I wanted you to know that we welcomed our largest first-year class in Carroll's history this fall, 814 students strong. They came to Carroll from 26 states and 18 countries, and distinguished themselves prior to arriving at Carroll with an average high school GPA of 3.53. We were thrilled to welcome these new Pioneers to our Carroll community!

Continuing to serve our students is **FOREMOST** in our mission. To that end, I would like to call your attention to the article introducing Dr. Eli Hestermann who is serving Carroll as our new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Eli joins Carroll with an impressive academic resume, a breadth of experience and a deep and abiding commitment to ensuring our students have the very best academic experience possible. I hope you will join me in welcoming Eli to Carroll.

Speaking of academics, I also hope you will note the article that shares the addition of three academic programs in engineering. Carroll has had a long history with a 3+2 engineering partnership, but given student and market-driven demand, Carroll decided this was the year to launch three, 4-year degree programs in engineering here at Carroll. We are proud of the evolution of these important programs and hope you will be too.

We continue to make significant strides **FORWARD** on our Pioneer Driven Campaign. Look for the update on our progress as we have now raised \$72 million of our \$100 million goal. If you would like to know how you can participate, I hope you will reach out and join us in this important work.

**FOR 180 YEARS** Carroll has served students in Wisconsin—yes, I said 180 years! Carroll will celebrate the 180th anniversary of our founding on January 31, 2026. This edition of FIRST will share Carroll traditions—old and new. We hope you will enjoy the opportunity to do some reminiscing and feel pride in the progress “our Carroll” is making now and into the future! Plan to join us throughout the year as we celebrate the 180-year history of this amazing place!



George Socha '47 celebrated his 78th Class Reunion and 100th birthday during Homecoming weekend, serving as Carroll's first 100-year-old marshal for the Homecoming parade. George is pictured above with President Cindy Gnadinger at the reunion celebration.



*Cindy Gnadinger*

Cindy Gnadinger  
President



First. Foremost. Forward. **For 180 Years.**



# Leading Through Curiosity and Learning: Provost Dr. Eli Hestermann's New Journey at Carroll

By Tim Muma

When Dr. Eli Hestermann arrived on campus this fall as Carroll University's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, he brought with him a mix of curiosity, energy and a genuine appreciation for community. From his first days at Carroll, Hestermann says he's felt "incredibly welcomed and supported" by colleagues and students alike. "There's a high degree of professionalism across the board," he noted, "and it's easy to find examples of people living out RESPECT, INTEGRITY AND STEWARDSHIP."

It's that culture of collaboration and care that drew Hestermann to Carroll in the first place. He saw in the university a model that blends the liberal arts with graduate and professional programs, preparing students for a rapidly changing world while remaining deeply rooted in its local community. "Carroll has a great mix of traditional liberal arts, graduate and professional programs that is critical to success for smaller, private universities today," he said. "The city and county of Waukesha provide an ideal setting for Carroll, and I look forward to more intentionally serving this community."

## A Philosophy Built on Candor and Curiosity

Ask Hestermann about his leadership philosophy and he doesn't hesitate, "I lead with commitments to candor and curiosity...candor meaning that I will always share the truth as I see it, realizing that my perception is limited. Curiosity leads me to want to understand how and why things work and think about how we could do them differently."



Hestermann assisted students as they settled into campus life welcoming them on move-in day.

That mix of honesty and inquisitiveness shapes his approach to academic leadership. He describes his role simply as a "remover of obstacles" — someone who helps create systems, processes and a culture that allows people to do their best work.

He also knows that higher education is navigating turbulent times. "The now infamous 'demographic cliff,' combined with growing skepticism about the value of

college, is making life difficult for many universities," he said. "At the same time, changes in government policy are impacting financial aid and international student enrollment.

We need a university that is resilient to these changes, not relying on specific revenues outside of our control."

The '*demographic cliff*' refers to a significant and lasting decline in the number of traditional college-aged students in the U.S., generally between the ages of 18 and 24. This drop is primarily attributed to lower birth rates resulting from the 2008 recession and its subsequent impact. Particularly small, private and regional colleges are seeing sharp decreases in the size of graduating high school classes. This has created intense competition for students and pressure to rethink academic offerings, recruiting and long-term planning.

## Centering the Student Experience

Hestermann speaks often about students, and when he does, it's with both empathy and a parent's perspective. "As a parent of a college student, I regularly hear about the stresses and uncertainties, the disappointments and the victories that come in and out of the classroom," he said. "Even as the university is constantly adapting to changing conditions, our students are doing the same. We need to both support and challenge each other to grow."

He views student success as a collective effort that extends well beyond academics. "The Provost, and everyone in Academics, needs to recognize the expertise of the talented professionals in Student Life, Athletics, Campus Services and others who support our students every day," he said. "One of the exciting things about being at a small university is the opportunity to build partnerships across all those areas."

For Hestermann, those connections often take shape through engaged learning experiences — such as research, internships and study abroad opportunities — that bring education to life. He's mentored dozens of students through independent research, sponsored internships with advocacy groups and international clinics, and led study abroad programs in Belize, Italy and Bermuda. "I love all forms of engaged learning," he said. "Those are the moments when students discover what they're capable of."

## Advocating for Every Student

As Carroll welcomes a growing number of first-generation and international students, Hestermann is focused on helping them navigate a system that can feel unfamiliar. "We need to look at everything the university does through the eyes of students, particularly those who may not have support from family members who understand college," he said. "It's not obvious what a Registrar or a Provost is, or that you need to buy your own books before classes start." By keeping that

perspective in mind, he hopes to make Carroll's culture and systems more accessible and intuitive for all students.

## Strengthening Carroll's Ties to Waukesha

Hestermann also sees great opportunity in deepening Carroll's partnerships with the Waukesha community — a relationship that dates back to the university's founding. "Carroll was created by local residents who saw the value of having a college in their community," he noted. "We need to make sure the people of Waukesha continue to see Carroll as their university."

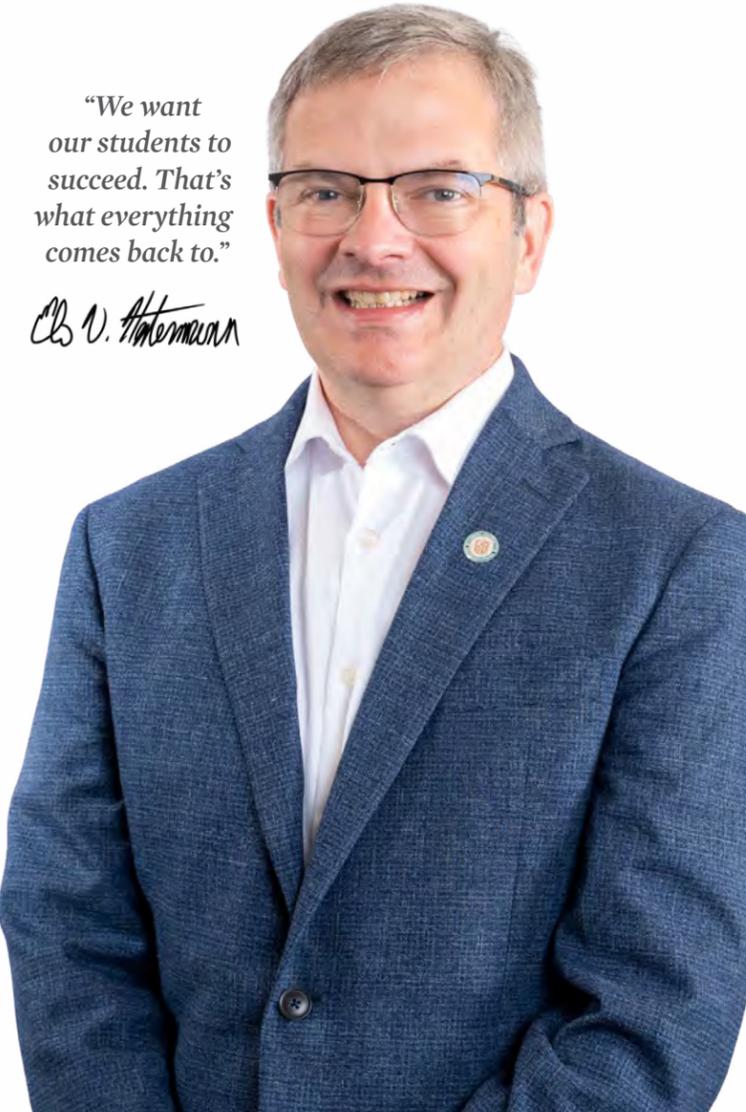
At his previous position at Furman University in South Carolina, Hestermann helped foster collaboration among the university, healthcare providers, nonprofits and local government. He wants to bring that same spirit to Waukesha by encouraging faculty to get involved in projects that help the community and give Carroll students real learning experiences — a concept often referred to as community-engaged scholarship.

## A Lifelong Learner at Heart

Hestermann earned his B.S. from Purdue University and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. While his entire resume is impressive, it's his curiosity that truly defines him. A self-described liberal arts enthusiast, he's taken classes in everything from economics and psychology to music theory and Italian. He has sung in and directed choirs, performed in community theater and joined reading groups studying Dante and Aquinas.

Outside the office, he loves being outdoors and on the move. Hestermann and his wife have hiked most of the Appalachian Trail, lived in Japan for a year and are closing in on visiting all 63 U.S. national parks. When he's home, though, his creativity moves to the kitchen. "I've subscribed to *Food & Wine Magazine* for 30 years," he said. "I'm constantly experimenting in the kitchen and looking forward to cooking big meals for family over the holidays."

As Hestermann settles into his new role, his approach is already clear — lead with openness, build through collaboration and always keep students at the center.



"We want our students to succeed. That's what everything comes back to."

*Eli Hestermann*

## What is the University Provost's role?

Few people likely know what a Provost's role is at a college or university. There is variety and flexibility depending on each institution, but Hestermann sticks to the traditional perspective on the position. At universities with multiple colleges or schools — each led by a dean — those deans typically report to the Provost. At Carroll, the Provost also serves as the second-in-command for the entire institution. If President Cindy Gnadinger is unable to carry out her responsibilities, the Provost steps in on an interim basis.

- The Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs oversees:
- All academic programs, Information and Technology, and the Library and Learning Commons
  - Degree structures
  - Instruction and curriculum
  - The faculty who deliver that academic experience

# Carroll Holiday Traditions

Throughout the years, Carroll has embraced a tapestry of holiday traditions that warm the heart and bring the campus together. From the glow of *CU Merry & Bright* and the *Annual Tree Lighting* to *Cocoa with Santa and Mrs. Claus* for Carroll employees and their families; from the *Old Main Society Christmas at Carroll Reception* to the stirring notes of the concert; and from the festive *International Students' Reception*—where students gather with President Cindy and John Gnadinger to decorate cookies and enjoy holiday treats—these cherished moments have become part of our Carroll story.

And who could forget, the *Madrigal Dinner* of days past—an enchanting holiday feast hosted by the Music Department, where carolers mingled with jugglers and jesters, creating a celebration that felt like stepping into a Renaissance dream. These moments remind us that while traditions may evolve, the heart of Carroll's holiday spirit remains the same: a commitment to community, joy and the magic of the season.

Let us honor the past, embrace the present and look forward to creating new memories that will become tomorrow's traditions.

# Throughout the Years

## "AS IF WE HAD BEEN HERS"

Composed during the *International Student Reception* for President Cindy Gnadinger

*As if we had been hers from the very beginning. We stood around her kitchen isle bright sprinkles and memorable icings. O! my gingerbread man, adorned with love and warmth a memory of home a hope for tomorrow. Some of us had crossed oceans. Some carried the loneliness of the winter. But there she stood at the door, welcoming all races and accents! She moved through the room checking on every student, laughed, she did not—perhaps, that's the Carroll education! Christmas had found us here—in a warm Kentucky kitchen. The smell of cookies and the comfort of community. She welcomed us in—as if we had been hers, the Kentucky-born lady with soft vowels. In her presence, we felt rooted, held, home!*

Poem written by: Alfred Akwasi Bresiamah '28. International Student



# Engineering Programs at Carroll University Will Help Address Critical Engineer Shortage

By Rebeca (Borrero) Perez '00

“The Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology was designed to provide a unique, one-of-a-kind educational experience for our students. The combination of subject matter across three fields, coupled with our traditional liberal arts core, provides our graduates with a unique, diversified skill set that will differentiate them in their chosen field,” noted **Tim Sullivan '75, Dean of The Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology.**

The U.S. is facing a severe shortage of engineers—Carroll’s engineering programs will address the significant engineering needs of regional and national markets. An aging workforce and a skills gap due to the rapid changes in technology have created a critical need for engineers throughout the country.

Like the rest of the U.S., “the Midwest, especially Wisconsin, is facing a critical need for engineers. Carroll is stepping up to meet that challenge,” noted **Greg Kuhlemeyer, Ph.D. Professor and Chair for the School of Business, Engineering and Technology.**

With the addition of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering majors at Carroll, students are learning to design, improve, install and operate integrated data systems, equipment and materials to improve the efficiency of products and services. Students draw upon technical skills in math, sciences, business and engineering as well as project leadership, complex problem-solving and communication skills. Carroll’s unique curriculum combines specialized technical skills with liberal arts concepts, producing engineers who can analyze systems in both the concrete and abstract.

The key differences between industrial and mechanical engineers are in how they apply concepts—industrial engineers focus on making systems and processes more efficient, while mechanical engineers design and build the machines and mechanical systems. Your car engine was likely designed with the help of a mechanical engineer, while the system designed to run the engine more efficiently was

created by an industrial engineer. Both are key components of your vehicle and work together to save time, reduce costs, improve productivity and improve your car’s system.



As true Pioneers, Carroll University is among the first in the country to offer a major in Drone Engineering. Students are joining a STEM-designated program that has a 100% pass rate on the FAA part 107 test. Students also learn how to plan and execute mapping missions, design and build payload sensing technology platforms, and learn to read, write and apply coding like Python and C++—critical skills in the field of design technology. Whether it’s by land, air or water, a career in drone engineering has infinite possibilities—the potential is significant.

“Our Mechanical and Industrial Engineering programs are distinctive because they blend rigorous technical training with a strong focus on collaboration, data-driven design and forward-thinking mindsets. When you add our Drone Engineering major into the mix, the first of its kind in the U.S., you see Carroll’s commitment to preparing engineers who will not only meet workforce demand but are also driving innovation to meet the needs of our regional manufacturing and technology-focused firms in the area,” Dr. Kuhlemeyer said.



When Carroll University engineering students graduate with a degree in engineering, they’ll be well equipped to step into in-demand careers such as law enforcement, environmental science, bioengineering, forensics, surveyors, storytelling, the arts and many more.

“We are constantly assessing and refreshing our course content to ensure that it fully aligns with the ever-changing job market,” Sullivan stressed. “Our internship program also fully prepares our students for the very best job opportunities that exist today.”

Learn more about The Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology at [carrollu.edu/academics/business](http://carrollu.edu/academics/business).



Join Us

2026

Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner

Celebrate

Our outstanding alumni who lead, serve and excel in their communities and professions.

Save the Date

Thursday, April 23, 2026

# Carroll Faculty's 30-Year Tradition Building Community Over Coffee

*Mondays at Crave:  
retired professors and friends  
keep a 30-year coffee  
tradition brewing!*



eight received an offer, including Gary and Bud. These were challenging times, **Dr. Joe Dailey** pointed out, “Carroll’s financial situation included hills and valleys... during that time, it was a valley, but look at Carroll’s financial stability now. This foundation helped smooth out the hills and valleys.”

In the early 1970s the job market started to close, it was very competitive and hard to find an academic job. Carroll faculty were invited to help take on the challenges by taking part in the Faculty Executive Committee, where there was always transparency with the faculty. These tough times included deficits and frozen salaries – difficult times for everyone, which is what helped bring the Carroll community together and build camaraderie between faculty and staff over the years. Many of the professors echoed that, ‘Waukesha was a great place to live and raise children. We had lots of parties. The kids went to Randall Elementary School together and we lived close enough to walk [to Carroll] living only a few blocks away from the Campus Center.’

## Many Fond Memories

In the 1970s and 80s, faculty’s children visited the campus frequently; the kids were even permitted in the athletic facilities if they behaved well and had a parent chaperoning them. Dr. Joe Dailey recalls, “I would sometimes bring a pile of schoolwork and a pile of kids to the very well-padded wrestling room in Van Male—a place the kids loved. The same kids seemed ubiquitous under the stadium bleachers during football games and under the Van Male bleachers during basketball games. It was common for the kids to have the run of the field at football half-times.”

A good number of professors cheered Carroll’s athletic teams robustly at virtually every home game and faculty and staff members would occasionally travel to away games together.

In March of 1972, Wisconsin’s legal drinking age was lowered to 18, not long after, Carroll’s rules followed suit. Carroll’s PIT (Pioneer Indoor Terrace), fast-food dining in the lower level of the Campus Center, served tap beer during that time—and a group of students could invite professors for relaxed conversation with or without beer. A Friday night faculty BYOB could involve students and few chose to complain about the new situation. In the 70s, there were a lot of BYOB TGIF faculty parties in a variety of homes. Dinner parties provided a great chance for more senior professors and staff to socialize with their younger colleagues. In 1983, the legal drinking age in Wisconsin went back to 21.

## Trips Far and Wide

Trips are fond memories for the group. There were many Wolf River raft trips after graduation. Every year the day after graduation, May 11th or 12th, during ‘Wilderness Studies,’ as they formally called it, you would find a group of faculty with overturned rafts and everyone in the white-water rapids. The



group said they will never forget the trip, especially since it was early spring and chilly. The ‘Wild Studs’ (administrators) were also invited to join.

Several professors chimed in and shared, “There was an Indonesia trip with Monty, a life experience that students will never forget...there was backpacking through the Smoky Mountains and **Dr. Joe Hemmer** (Emeritus Professor of Communications) went on an amazing trip to Navajo nation in 1980. The January term had several students and faculty traveling to other countries, like Guatemala, and had them coming here.’ They all agreed: the best kind of education/experience that students can get, really helping shape what students might want to do in the future, is traveling internationally.

Dr. Paul Rempe noted, “Nottingham students would come in the summer and Carroll students would go over during the school year. I took that program over and our sons did the exchange with a fellow from England.” Many of the faculty agreed they would like to see Carroll continue to highlight international exchange programs.

## Faculty Wives Club

The faculty wives have also been an integral part of the Carroll community. They were nick-named the ‘Faculty Wives Club,’ which consisted of a large, organized social group that evolved from a smaller group that was dubbed the ‘stitchery group’ because a few members showed up with knitting or other stitchery projects. “The Faculty Wives Club organized play groups for kids, played bridge monthly and helped out when a new baby arrived,” according to Barb Dailey, Dr. Dailey’s wife. Their monthly bridge group is still going.

This special group of emeriti professors and their families (and many others not listed) hold an important place in Carroll’s history, with years of service, camaraderie and community that preserves the university’s enduring legacy. They welcome former faculty and staff to drop in on Mondays and grab a cup of coffee, a donut or two, and enjoy the conversation amongst friends—a tradition they hope to continue for many years to come.

*Crave at Carroll is located on the main level of Frontier Hall at 210 Grand Avenue in Waukesha and is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

## Former Faculty and Staff Pictured Above:

- Karen and Mark Aamot, Professor Emeritus of Music
- Peggy and Tom Bull, Former Professor of Physical Education, Wellness and Biology
- Barb (not pictured) and Dr. Joe Dailey, Professor Emeritus of Communications
- Virginia Jones, widow of Sidney ‘Sid’ Jones, Professor Emeritus of English
- Dr. Harold ‘Hal’ Kacaneck, Former Professor of Music who led the Carroll College Community Orchestra and Music Department Chair; Married for 50+ years to Jean Kacaneck, Adjunct then Full-time Music Professor and Lead Director of Project Create
- Kay Kenealy, ’82, Former Associate Dean of Students and Academic Facilities
- Eugene Miranda, Former Adjunct Professor at Carroll
- Kathy and Paul Rempe, Professor Emeritus of History who later served as an Adjunct Professor
- Gary Stevens, Professor Emeritus of English

## Not pictured, but regularly attend:

- Joan and John Clausz, Professor Emeritus of Biology
- Dr. Gay Knutson, Professor Emerita of Education
- Kirstin and Dr. Bruce Strom, Professor Emeritus of Education

By Rebeca (Borrero) Perez ’00

What began as a coffee break at the former Ratzow Dining Room (now the Gert Ullsperger Main Dining Room, aka MDR) has evolved into a more than 30-year tradition.

Former Carroll faculty, professors and their wives (some now widows) have forged a large, tightly knit community gathering at Crave, to sip, sit, share stories and their ideas Monday mornings.

It usually begins with a health update; they are now retired after all—many taught in the 1970s and 80s and retired in the year 2000 and some in mid-2000s. The retired professors taught a variety of subjects, including Biology, Chemistry, Communications, English, History and Music. There is even a past Associate Dean of Students, **Kay Kenealy ’82**, aka fondly referred to as the ‘Commencement Zarina’.

Conversations in the early days at Carroll, when **President Bob Cramer** and **President Dan West** were in position, began with discussions about the most recent events, who was taking over what academic program, where faculty training was going to happen and more. Now that same community of more than 20 faculty continues gathering and reminiscing about past times, both the memorable good times and the challenging.

## Challenging Times

**Emeriti Dr. Gary Stevens** and **Dr. Bud Hudson** began working at Carroll in 1970. Twenty-five people were looking for a job but only



## A True Pioneer: Carroll's Youngest Alumnus Leads the Way in Law School

By Amanda Karalis '27

When asked if he had any advice for current Carroll students, Anthony shared:

“College students, especially those who are younger, should dedicate themselves to hard work and perseverance ... In doing so, they will show that they value the outstanding opportunity to receive a university education and will inspire others to judge them not by age or physical conditions, but by the content of their character.”

From the classroom to the courtroom, Anthony Sikorski '23 has never been one to take the easy route. Anthony, an accomplished Carroll University alum and current student at Marquette University Law School, is anything but your average student. What sets Anthony apart isn't just ambition, but his unwavering dedication to turn challenge into opportunity. Graduating from Carroll summa cum laude at just 18 years old, Anthony accomplished more before adulthood than some do in a lifetime—all while managing the daily realities of both Cystic Fibrosis and Crohn's Disease. Balancing rigorous academics, intensive medical challenges and the transition to university life at such a young age, a mere 14 years old, demanded a level of maturity and discipline far beyond his years. Though his college experience was far from conventional, his success story stands as a testament to his perseverance and intellect. He proudly credits his foundation to his time at Carroll.

While law school is known for its rigorous courses and demanding study schedule, Anthony says Carroll prepared him well for the challenge. In his upper-level biology courses, professors emphasized independent learning. Students were expected to master material on their own before reviewing it in class. This approach strengthened his time management and critical thinking skills. At Marquette, where students regularly tackle fifty to sixty pages of reading multiple times a week, Anthony acknowledges Carroll's focus on independence as key to his success. His undergraduate research experience at Carroll was equally valuable. From guided projects to experiments he designed and executed himself, Anthony developed strong analytical and research skills. These have served him well as a research assistant in law school.

Anthony has been named Editor-in-Chief of the Marquette Law Review, one of the highest honors a law student can achieve. As Editor-in-Chief, he holds ultimate responsibility for overseeing all aspects of the publication's operations and serves as its general manager. This prestigious appointment reflects Anthony's exceptional dedication, intellectual ability and leadership skills. In addition, he has earned six A+ grades across four semesters, a remarkable accomplishment, as professors may award only one A+ per class.

Carroll's pre-law program aims to prepare students like Anthony for their future careers in the legal sector. You can contact Career Services to learn more about potential opportunities or learn more about pre-law online at: [carrollu.edu/academics/arts-sciences/pre-professional-law](http://carrollu.edu/academics/arts-sciences/pre-professional-law).

## Finding Balance Emily Jones' Perspective as a Student-Athlete at Carroll University

By Tim Muma

When Emily Jones, '28, began her college search, she had a clear vision of what she was looking for—a university in the Midwest with a strong graphic design program, small class sizes and real-world career opportunities. But what ultimately drew her to Carroll University went beyond academics.

“I knew I wanted to be somewhere that felt personal and supportive, not just another face in a lecture hall,” said Jones, a Kansas City, Missouri, native. “Being close to Milwaukee was a big plus because of all the creative industry connections in the area. I reached out to Coach (Emma) Mertler, set up a tour and immediately loved the campus and everyone I met.”

That first visit sealed the deal. Jones found not only the right academic fit, but a community that felt genuine.

Now a double major in graphic design and another complementary discipline, Jones balances her demanding course load with her role on the Carroll women's volleyball team. Like many student-athletes, she quickly discovered that the transition to college life came with challenges.

“The biggest thing I struggled with at first was being away from my family and the familiarity of my hometown,” she admitted. “It took some time to adjust, but I've definitely built my own home here and found a great support system.”

Her adjustment came through connection—with teammates, professors and friends who helped her feel rooted. “My favorite thing about Carroll is the people,” Jones said. “Everyone is so kind and willing to help whenever you need it. I also really appreciate the small campus and class sizes. It has made it easier to connect with professors who genuinely care about your success.”

That personal attention has proven invaluable, especially as Jones juggles the busy life of a student-athlete. “The most challenging part is definitely time management,” she said. “Between volleyball, classes, clubs, my campus job and being a double major, it can be hard to find time for everything, especially studying and socializing.”

Jones credits her ability to stay balanced to the encouragement and understanding of those around her. “Drive and support are what keep me going,” she explained. “Having personal motivation to perform well in school and athletics, along with encouragement from my coaches, teammates and professors, helps me stay focused on my goals.”

And though the Wisconsin winters have taken some getting used to —“I didn't know winter here lasted until May!” she laughed—the warmth of the Carroll community more than makes up for the chill.

Outside of her commitments on the court and in the classroom, Jones dedicates her free time to helping others. She volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters Milwaukee and Habitat for Humanity, two organizations that allow her to make a difference beyond campus.

“I've always loved giving back and having the opportunity to help people,” she said. “Even though I'm busy, volunteering is something I'm passionate about and want to continue doing throughout my life.”

Jones also brings her creativity and enthusiasm into her on-campus job in Carroll's Office of Marketing and Communications. “Working there has been an incredible experience,” she said. “It's allowed me to step into a real-world environment with clients, deadlines and projects that have challenged me creatively. I've gained so many practical skills and gotten to see how design and communication work together.”

That experience, she added, has deepened her appreciation for her chosen field and for the university that has helped her grow. “I've been able to meet a ton of people and learned more about Carroll through the projects we've worked on,” she said. “It's helped me see how the university communicates its mission and values to the world, and I feel proud to be part of that.”

Looking ahead, Jones hopes to continue blending her love for design, athletics and community involvement into a fulfilling career. But for now, she's focused on making the most of her time at Carroll—on the court, in the classroom and in the community.



# Carroll University's 180-Year Journey Through Time



First. Foremost. Forward. For 180 Years.

For 180 years, Carroll University has stood as a cornerstone of higher education in Wisconsin and a proud symbol of the pioneering spirit.

Founded in 1846—two years before Wisconsin became a state—Carroll holds the distinction of being the state's first, four-year institution of higher learning. From its earliest days as Carroll College, dedicated to developing leaders through faith and knowledge, to its present role as a comprehensive university grounded in the liberal arts, Carroll's story is one of growth, resilience and community.

The history timeline highlights many of the key milestones that have shaped Carroll's history—from its founding and early years in the frontier town of Waukesha, through periods of expansion, innovation and transformation. Each event marks a moment in time that helped define Carroll's enduring mission: to prepare students for lifelong learning, service and success.



**1846**  
Chartered by the Territorial Legislature on Jan. 31, 1846, to advance the work of Prairieville Academy (founded in 1841), **Carroll College opens** with five students and two faculty members, **Eleazer Root** and **John W. Sterling**.



**1850**  
Reverend **John Adams Savage** becomes the **first Carroll College president** and also begins the college's affiliation with the Presbyterian Church. Reverend Savage held office from 1850-1863.

**1852**  
In 1852, Carroll broke ground for its first **Main Hall**, that became the heart of the campus—serving as classrooms, offices, a chapel and student housing—and standing as a lasting symbol of the institution's commitment to higher education.



**1866**  
**Dr. Walter L. Rankin** arrives in Waukesha to become Carroll's next president. With the exception of two short absences while the school was temporarily closed, Dr. Rankin served Carroll for the next 38 years as president (1866-71, 1873-79, 1881-1903) and as a professor until 1910.



**1896**  
**May Nickell Rankin** forms the **Carroll Players**, the oldest student drama club in Wisconsin.

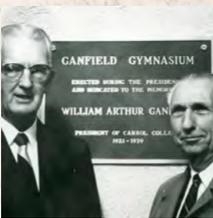


**1904**  
**Wilbur O. Carrier** becomes president. Courses in government, economics, sociology, education and domestic science are added to the curriculum during his term as president, 1904-1917.

**1906**  
On June 13, the cornerstones are laid for three major campus buildings—**Rankin Hall of Science**, **Elizabeth Voorhees Dormitory** and **Ralph Voorhees Cottage**—marking a significant period of expansion and modernization at Carroll.



**1909**  
The college receives **full accreditation** from the **North Central Association of Colleges and Universities**.  
**Frame Field** is dedicated on June 16, on the site of a former limestone quarry and the present site of **Schneider Stadium**.



**1921**  
**William Arthur Ganfield** becomes president of Carroll in 1921 and serves until 1939.  
In 1924, the construction of **Ganfield Gymnasium**, named after the president, and continued campus developments begin.

**1996**  
Carroll celebrates its **sesquicentennial**, marking 150 years of academic and campus development.



The **Physical Therapy** graduate program begins, expanding Carroll's offerings in health sciences.



**Humphrey Memorial Chapel and Art Center** opens, providing new facilities for worship, the arts and community events.



**1990**  
With a generous gift from the late **R. Jack Sneed** '50 and his wife, **Cherrill Swart Sneed** '50, the college begins restoration of the **Sneeden House**, a magnificent 1922 colonial home now used as a guesthouse and conference center.



**1979**  
**Otteson Theatre** and the **Walter Young Center** are dedicated, adding new spaces for performing arts, lectures and offers mental health services to students navigating college life and life's challenges.



**1973**  
The **Distinguished Alumni Award** and the **Athletic Hall of Fame** are established. The photo at left, includes **Dennis Morgan** receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983.



**1976**  
**Van Male Field House** is dedicated and the tennis courts are constructed.  
A **New Cultural Experience Program** begins, shaping Carroll's curriculum and inspiring students to travel through cross-cultural experiences.

**1970**  
The **Howard T. Greene Scientific Study and Conservancy Area** was gifted to the college.



**1967**  
**Shattuck Chapel and Music Center**, named for trustee and college architect **Frank C. Shattuck**, opens.



**1956**  
The student union, now known as the **Campus Center**, opens as a central facility for student services and campus activities.

**Swarthout Dormitory**, named for trustee **Susan B. Swarthout**, opens providing additional student housing.



**1965**  
Construction of **Van Male Field House** begins, funded as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. **Ollie J. Van Male** in memory of their son **James R. Van Male '54**.



**2004**  
**Schneider Stadium** is dedicated at Homecoming. The \$1.25 million project, made possible through a gift from **Jim Schneider '74**, includes an artificial playing surface and lights.



**2010**  
Carroll begins offering classes in its new **Master of Business Administration** program.  
The **Carroll University Graduate Center** opens on Waukesha's east side.



**2015**  
Purchased two years earlier and renovated for use by the community, **Haertel Field** is officially opened in the fall.



**2008**  
Carroll College is renamed **Carroll University**, effective July 1, after a unanimous decision by the Carroll Board of Trustees in May.

**2016**  
The 44,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, **Michael and Mary Jaharis Science Laboratories** opens. It was the first new academic building to be constructed on campus in more than 50 years and was also the school's only donor gift-and grant-funded structure. The labs are named in recognition of a gift from alumnus **Michael Jaharis '50**.



Carroll's official magazine, **Pioneer**, is re-branded as **FIRST—The Magazine of Carroll University**. The magazine puts a fresh spin on stories about campus life, updates on alumni and in-depth features connecting the accomplishments of Carroll alumni, faculty and staff to today's headlines.



**2018**  
**Dr. Cindy G. Gnadinger** is inaugurated as the institution's **15th and first, female president** of Carroll University on March 16.



**Doug and Nancy Hastad Hall** opens for the start of the spring semester in January. The building is home to the nursing, physics, engineering and exercise science programs in honor of former President **Doug Hastad**, Carroll's 14th president, and his wife, Nancy.



**2023**  
Carroll receives its largest gift in history—\$10 million from **Tim '75 and Vivian Sullivan** to name the **Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology**.



**2024**  
Carroll University launched new bachelor's degree programs in **Industrial Engineering** and **Mechanical Engineering** for the fall 2025 semester.



**2025**  
Carroll welcomed its **largest first-year class** to date, enrolling 814 students.



Carroll launched the **nation's first Drone Engineering major**. The program covers airspace regulation, executing mapping missions, design and build payload sensing technology platforms, and learn to read, write and apply coding like Python and C++—critical skills in the field of design technology.

Carroll announced major campus renovations funded by \$52.6 million in donations. The projects include, the new **Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology**, upgrades to the **College of Health Sciences** and the **Van Male Field House**.



Voorhees Hall 2023

Steeped in history, **Voorhees Hall** has witnessed countless generations pass through its doors since 1906. Once a bustling college dormitory and later a hub of learning, its walls have echoed with countless stories over the decades. Today, this cherished landmark continues its legacy, serving as home to the administrative offices

of Admissions, Graduate Admissions, the Office of the President, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communications, Financial Aid, Business Office, CU Central (Student Success, Academic Advising, Registrar, Institutional Research) and more—a timeless cornerstone of campus life.

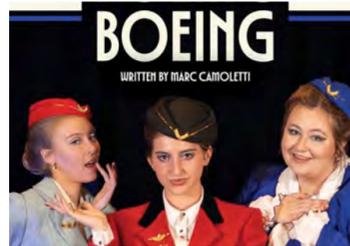
## Carroll Players Take Their Place in the SPOTLIGHT

By Amanda Karalis '27

Carroll Players, Wisconsin's first drama club, debuted in June 1896 with Bulwer Lyton's *Richelieu*, staged by **May N. Rankin**, daughter of former Carroll President, **Walter Rankin**. In 1901, Carroll established one of the first collegiate theatre programs in the U.S. Today, Carroll Players and the theatre department has blossomed into a premiere theatre program led by professors **Jenn Dobby** and **James Zager**, offering elaborate plays, musicals and theatre education.

Carroll's dedication to supporting the fine arts is felt throughout the program. **Ellie Ertl '27** is a member of Carroll Players and a Theatre major. The program provides her with opportunities to explore all aspects of theatrical studies: acting, dancing, technical work and business. Academic courses have allowed her to broaden her perspective and become a more well-rounded student. Carroll Players supports students as they explore the fine arts through workshops, seminars and activities. Carroll staff and faculty are increasingly supportive of these endeavors, whether it be through funding, advertising or simply attending the performances.

Ertl says the most rewarding part of the program is the community it fosters. Being able to not only follow her passions, but to share the experience with other dedicated students is what makes Carroll Players the perfect outlet for students interested in the fine arts. The company spends several hours per week collaborating and forming connections with the production team. Ertl shared, "Theatre is unique in that it's such a team-oriented environment—every single piece matters in production, from lights to sound, to actors to costumers. Being able to share in that joy, and enjoy the process and product with all kinds of people, is so rewarding."



Cast members (L to R) Lauren Rank, Ellie Ertl and Grace Banwart.

The Carroll Players most recent production was a romantic farce titled **BOEING**, directed

by Associate Professor of Theatre, **Jenn Dobby, MFA**. The show featured seven student performers and ran four performances. The cast shared that the most rewarding part of the experience was watching all the moving pieces come together so seamlessly onstage. The company had only a few months to build the show, creating a much tighter timeline than typical productions, yet the cast and crew rose to the challenge. They brought fast-paced comedy to life with energy, cohesion and genuine enthusiasm.

As Carroll Players continues to grow, the spirit of collaboration, creativity and passion remains at the heart of the program. From its historic roots to its modern productions, Carroll University's commitment to the fine arts ensures that students like Ertl have the space to explore their talents. With each new show, the program reaffirms its role as a cornerstone of campus life. It demonstrates that theatre at Carroll is not just performances, but a community-driven experience that enriches the university as a whole.

Stay tuned to [carrollu.edu/community](http://carrollu.edu/community) (Arts Events) for upcoming productions.



Boeing, Boeing cast members (L to R) Grace Banwart, Caleb Reynolds and Joe Lewis.



# UPDATE ON PIONEER DRIVEN THE CAMPAIGN FOR CARROLL

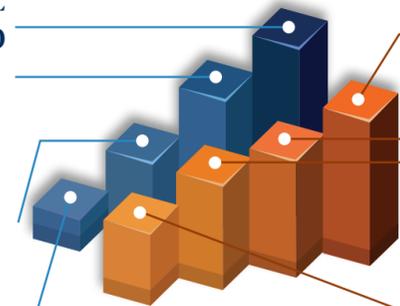
As of November 1, 2025

### Funding Goals

#### CAMPAIGN GOAL

## \$100,000,000

<b>Capital Projects</b> .....	<b>\$55M</b>
The Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology	\$35M
Van Male Field House Renovation/Addition	\$15M
Capital Renovations	\$5M
<b>Endowment</b> .....	<b>\$20M</b>
Student Scholarships	\$16.5M
Faculty and Staff Positions	\$2M
Program Support	\$1M
Unrestricted	
Endowment Support	\$500K
<b>Operating Support</b> .....	<b>\$25M</b>
Current Unrestricted Support	\$13M
Current Restricted Support	\$12M



### Funding Received

#### CAMPAIGN TO DATE

<b>\$72,000,000</b>	
<b>Capital Projects</b> .....	<b>\$24M</b>
The Sullivan School of Business, Engineering and Technology	\$15M
Van Male Field House Renovation/Addition	\$6M
Capital Renovations	\$3M
<b>Endowment</b> .....	<b>\$20M</b>
Student Scholarships	\$17M
Faculty and Staff Positions	\$1M
Program Support	\$1.6M
Unrestricted	
Endowment Support	\$560K
<b>Operating Support</b> .....	<b>\$28M</b>
Current Unrestricted Support	\$14M
Current Restricted Support	\$14M

As of November 2025, Carroll University is 72% towards the \$100,000,000, multi-year, comprehensive **Pioneer Driven Campaign**. The campaign will significantly advance the University's mission through several initiatives to sustain the University's core health and well-being, including:

- Capital Projects
- Endowment Growth
- Operating Support

Fundraising for this important effort continues. We are looking for alumni, parents and friends to help us reach these important goals. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of these projects please contact:

**Victoria Dowling, VP for Institutional Advancement**  
vdowling@carrollu.edu, 262.524.7132

**Michelle DuBord, Director of Campaign Operations**  
mdubord@carrollu.edu, 262.524.7238

## Refer a Student to Carroll University!



**\$500/Year Hilger Tradition Award for Undergraduate or Transfer Students**

Referrals due by February 15 for Fall 2026

Students are limited to one scholarship per person, per year for up to four years



Scan this QR code for more information or visit [carrollu.edu/alumni/refer-a-student](http://carrollu.edu/alumni/refer-a-student)

# 2025-26 CARROLL ATHLETICS RECAP

## FALL SPORTS

### CROSS COUNTRY

**MEN** — Carroll’s men completed a competitive fall that emphasized pack running and incremental time drops across the lineup. The Pioneers saw encouraging depth through September (top-half team finishes at **Ken Weidt** and **Gene Davis**), then battled one of the region’s densest fields at the Augustana Interregional before concluding the segment at the CCIW Championships in Rock Island on Nov. 1. Carroll placed 8th of 9 in the conference meet, a result that aligned with a developmental year and a schedule built to sharpen late season execution. Veteran **Ethan Weber** continued to anchor the scoring five while a rotating cast of underclassmen gained championship reps that should pay off in 2026.

**WOMEN** — The women’s team leaned into a growth curve with a young core, stacking quality meets (**Tom Barry**, **Ken Weidt**, **Gil Dodds** and **Augustana Interregional**) ahead of November’s championship phase. At the CCIW Championships, Carroll placed 9th (221 points), a finish that belies the program’s longterm upside after facing a field that produced one of the conference’s fastest winning 6k times on record. The Pioneers’ mid-pack splits tightened, entering the championship weekend, and several runners posted season bests in the final month to set the stage for spring training and the 2026 returners.

### FOOTBALL

Carroll’s fall featured tangible momentum swings and a clear identity: run the football, win the takeaway battle and control special teams. The Pioneers broke through on Oct. 4 with a 28–17 road win



at Millikin, riding **Mikey Coleman’s** 141 rushing yards, two short yardage touchdowns from **Reed Breckheimer** and a late, clock-draining march that showcased the line’s physicality. The following week’s Homecoming victory, 24–10 over North Park, featured explosive plays through the air (TD strikes to **Breckheimer** and **Carson Crouch**) and a defense that generated four takeaways to salt it away. By Oct. 25, Carroll authored its most complete performance in a 47–7 rout of Elmhurst, piling up 316 rushing yards, scoring two defensive TDs, and blocking a punt for a safety in a rain soaked statement at Schneider Stadium.

Through Nov. 1, Carroll sat 3–5 overall (3–4 CCIW) behind 2,242 total offense yards and a run game that averaged 125.1 ypg, with **Coleman** and **Breckheimer** combining for nine rushing TDs. Special teams remained a plus – **Matthew Swink** stretched the field with a 50-yard FG vs. North Park and the coverage units consistently flipped field position, while the defense’s opportunism (10 interceptions to that point) kept Carroll in multiple one-possession games.

The team would finish 4-6 overall (4-5 in CCIW) to take fifth in conference. Their highlight victory came at Illinois Wesleyan in a 34-14 win, the first time the Pioneers won in Bloomington since the 1980s. **Breckheimer** and **Coleman** were named First Team All-Conference with **Amarrion Bridges** and **Max Katsenos** named to the Second Team.

### MEN’S SOCCER

The Pioneers returned to the CCIW Tournament for the second straight year, finishing 6–10–2 (3–4–1 CCIW) and earning the No. 5 seed. The quarter final at North Park turned into a defensive chess match, with sophomore **Uriel Garcia** delivering a standout in net to force overtime before the Vikings prevailed 1–0 (OT). The fall also showcased a blend of senior leadership and promising newcomers,

**Marti Solanelles** (career 25-goal scorer entering the year) provided the creative spark, while **Iskander Sharipov** added vital scoring punch during the conference play.

Midfielder **Matthew Meke** was named to the All-CCIW First Team, anchoring the midfield with veteran poise and play-making ability. On the Second Team, Carroll placed three honorees:

**Nico Hinten (Sr., M)**, **Iskander Sharipov (Fr., M)** and **Marti Solanelles (Sr., F)**, each recognized for consistent performance and leadership throughout conference play.

Several late October tuneups against ranked/regional foes, including UW-Whitewater, stress tested Carroll’s depth and tactical shape ahead of postseason play, where they ultimately fell in a heartbreaker in the conference tournament to North Park in overtime.

The Pioneers played a surprise exhibition match against the Badgers at the University of Wisconsin, losing a hard-fought 3-0 contest. This was the first time Carroll played at UW-Madison in school history.

### WOMEN’S SOCCER

After last year’s historic 8–0–0 CCIW regular season title, this fall was about reestablishing a rotation following heavy graduation while staying competitive in a parity-rich league. Carroll’s ledger included quality non-conference results, 3–2 vs. UW-Whitewater and a 3–0 win at Beloit, plus a gutsy 2–0 shutout at Millikin to secure a crucial road conference victory. League results were tight late in the season; despite a mid-October loss to surging North Park, the Pios’ underlying numbers (possession, shot volume) remained competitive against most opponents. Senior **Carmella**



**Nowak** earned First Team All-CCIW honors for her midfield leadership and scoring impact. With a young nucleus logging heavy minutes and multiple clean sheets on the resume, the program’s year-over-year arc remains strong as the group builds toward 2026.

### VOLLEYBALL

Carroll has delivered its best season in years, signaling a major step forward for the program. After hovering around single-digit win totals in recent seasons – 9 wins in 2022 and 11 in 2023 – the Pioneers surged to 14–12 overall by late October, already surpassing those marks with matches still to play. This turnaround was fueled by improved depth and a more balanced attack, which allowed Carroll to compete consistently in a rugged CCIW slate.

October became a defining stretch, punctuated by a road sweep at Augustana (3–0) and a clinical home sweep of Elmhurst (3–0). The offense spread the load behind **Bronwyn Rowse** (six-rotation reliability), **Audrey Rosenbaum** (efficient point scoring) and **Kylie Wittnebel** (middle presence), while junior **Payton Depies** orchestrated tempo from a steady 5–1 system. The league took notice on Oct. 27, when Depies earned Setter of the Week and **Maggie McGough** claimed Defensive Student-Athlete of the Week after a 2–0 stretch that featured a CCIW win over Wheaton and a four-set victory over Loras.

By month’s end, Carroll ranked +17 in aces and showed marked gains in blocking efficiency, metrics that underscore a program trending upward. With a core returning and a culture reset evident in the win column, this fall stands as Carroll’s strongest campaign since joining the CCIW, and a clear signal that the Pioneers are ready to



contend deeper in conference play.

Carroll made their first conference tournament appearance since 2018, falling in a tight 5-set match at Wheaton. This was a significant step in the right direction for the program as they return many contributors, including their all-conference performers, **Bronwyn Rowse** (1st Team) and **Payton Depies** (2nd team).

### WOMEN’S GOLF Season Continues in Spring

The Pios wrapped their fall with a 7th place team finish at the CCIW Championship (Oct. 6–8) at Metamora Fields, navigating tough weather over the final two rounds. **Tessa Lawson** led the lineup (255, 27th), closely followed by **Lynea Sekany** and senior **Lauren Lostetter**, underscoring a compact scoring spread that should translate to spring consistency. Earlier fall stops included, top-half team placements at regional invitationals, with the staff highlighting par3 scoring and scrambling gains that are poised to trim a few team shots per round in March/April.

### MEN’S GOLF Primary Season Continues in Spring

Carroll’s fall slate featured competitive showings against deep regional fields. The Pios placed 6th of 17 at the Firebird Fall Classic, followed by a 7th-place finish at the Wisconsin Lutheran Invitational and a 29th of 44 result at the Midwest Region Classic, a meet that drew nationally ranked programs. The team’s best spring preview came at the Judson Invitational, where Carroll tied for 6th of 22, signaling progress in par-5 scoring and short-game conversion. With a young core gaining experience and senior leadership anchoring the top spots, the Pioneers aim to climb the CCIW leaderboard when play resumes in April.



## WOMEN’S TENNIS

### Season Continues in Spring

Carroll’s fall segment produced a 5–5 overall (4–4 CCIW) ledger with wins over Concordia, Carthage, North Park, Elmhurst and Millikin, a foundation for spring tournament positioning.

At the top, **Natasa Pupovac** and **Katherine Trifilio** posted gritty three-set wins in a 5–2 battle vs. Augustana, showcasing the Pios’ ability to close under pressure even on a day the doubles point got away. A mid-Sept. test vs. UW-La Crosse (WIAC favorite) delivered learning moments across courts 1–6 and set matchplay priorities for the coaching staff (firstserve percentage and secondball aggression) ahead of spring. This season, the Pioneers were honored by the league with two All-CCIW selections: **Natasa Pupovac** earned First Team recognition and **Katherine Trifilio** was named to the Second Team – testaments to their leadership in both formats.

### MEN’S TENNIS Primary Season Continues in Spring

The Pioneers closed the fall segment at 10–8 overall, including a 2–4 mark in CCIW play, and showcased promise at the ITA Midwest Regional, where the doubles tandem of **Mark Trinkka** and **Jack McCaffery** upset the ninth-seeded Carleton pair in a three-set thriller. Senior **Adrian Gomez** earned CCIW **Student Athlete of the Week** honors earlier in the season, while **Daniel Ezcurra** and **Andrew LaBelle** added depth in singles. With several tight 5–4 duals under their belt, Carroll enters the spring focused on doubles point consistency and lineup flexibility for the conference tournament push.



## WINTER SPORTS

### Season Previews + Early Results

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2025-26 Preview

The Pios open Nov. 7 at the Nicolet National Bank TipOff at St. Norbert, then face UW-Whitewater, Wartburg and Chicago in a meaty non-league block designed to accelerate lineup cohesion before CCIW play. Senior forward **Natalie Gricius** enters the season as a d3hoops.com Preseason All American (Third Team) after averaging 18.2 ppg last year and authoring a 37-point performance at Elmhurst, production and shotmaking that give Carroll a true lateclock finisher. The rotation features proven backcourt length and the ability to switch roles, with several pieces able to defend 1-3 and initiate offense, a profile that underpinned last season's climb to as high as #13 in the national poll and another trip to the CCIW title game. The staff's early emphasis: board play versus ranked non-conference fronts and continued tempo control to maximize shot quality for their primary scorers.

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL 2025-26 Preview

From the staff's internal season preview: Carroll embraces an underdog identity after a 9th place pick in the CCIW poll and opens at #5 WashU (Nov. 7) before a trio of rugged WIAC contests (Platteville, Oshkosh and Whitewater). Seniors **Jacob Naber**, **Evan Bland** and **Lamar Smith** provide ballast as the staff integrates 13 underclassmen and two impact transfers: **Michael McNabb** (Grafton HS all-time leading scorer; Northern Michigan

commit out of HS) and **Andrew Hollerich** (Loyola Academy/Saint Leo), each bringing size and two-way tools. Expect a fast, but disciplined, tempo with defense and rebounding feeding transition and a half-court offense predicated on spacing and unselfish play, principles aimed at peaking in February. If the first-year/sophomores find stride by the holiday break, this group's February ceiling is higher than the poll suggests.

#### WOMEN'S BOWLING 2025-26 Preview + Early Results

After a breakthrough 2024-25 that included, a program best No. 2 seed at the CCIW Tournament and **Coach of the Year** honors for **Mason Petrin**, the Pios enter this winter with title expectations. **Ava Butt** – the league's **Student Athlete of the Year** last spring – returns as a high leverage anchor in any format (traditional or Baker), and **Hannah Bartlett** brings postseason scoring chops that stabilized Carroll's 2025 run to Championship Sunday in Westmont. The new season began with a runner-up showing at the Pio Invite and includes a marquee hosting role for CCIW Conference Invite #1 (Nov. 22-23) at Sunset Bowl, where Carroll will leverage depth from a large first-year class that has heightened daily competition in practice. The schedule also sends the Pios to the Warhawk Classic and Windy City Halloween Classic, prime measuring sticks before conference play intensifies after the new year.

#### SWIMMING AND DIVING 2025-26 Preview + Early Results

**MEN** — The men's squad opened strong with a 118-72 dual win over Millikin on Nov. 1, powered by depth in the 200 Free Relay and standout swims in the backstroke and IM events. Earlier in Oct., Carroll battled MSOE in a competitive dual that showcased emerging talent in the butterfly and sprint freestyle. The coaching staff has emphasized relay chemistry and stroke efficiency, aiming to convert these gains into more A-final qualifiers at the

Feb. CCIW Championships.

**WOMEN** — The women's team mirrored that success, rolling past Millikin 128-68 and notching key event wins across distance-free, sprints and medley relays. A highlight came in the 200 IM, where multiple Pios posted lifetime bests, signaling depth beyond the sprint-heavy profile of past seasons. With diving now integrated into the scoring mix and a strong first-year class complementing returning leaders, Carroll is positioned to challenge for its highest point total in years at the conference meet.



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Ironwood Golf Course  
Sussex, Wisconsin



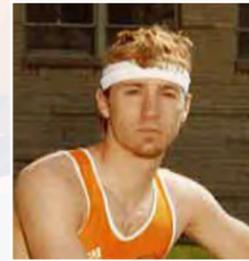
Registration opens:  
April 1, 2026  
Early Bird Discount Closes:  
April 30, 2026

## DEPARTMENT NOTES / EXTRAS

### ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME – CLASS OF 2025 (AUG. 1, 2025 INDUCTION)



Carroll enshrined five new members: **Jason Gosa '02** (one of the most decorated track and field athletes in school history—11x MWC champion, 6x NCAA qualifier), **Megan (O'Grady) Di Silvestro '14** (elite distance runner in XC/Track with school records and national appearances), **Lawrence Rynning '77** (AllCCIW guard on the 1976 title team; CoSIDA Academic AllAmerica), **Lenore Schroeder '80** (pioneer of women's athletics; statetitle teams in basketball and back-to-back volleyball championships) and **Lamont Williams '23** (record setting football running back whose marks still crowd the program record book).



**Jason Gosa '02**  
Track and Field,  
Men's Soccer



**Megan O'Grady '14**  
Track and Field,  
Cross Country



**Larry Rynning '77**  
Football



**Lenore Schroeder '80**  
Women's  
Basketball,  
Volleyball



**Lamont Williams '23**  
Football

### NEW THIS YEAR: CCIW NETWORK (WITH HUDL)

In Aug. 2025, the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) and Hudl launched the CCIW Network, a unified free streaming platform that aggregates live and archived broadcasts from all nine core institutions – no subscription required. Fans can navigate by sport or institution and championship coverage is centralized at cciwnetwork.com. Carroll's first broadcast on the network was men's soccer vs. Benedictine (Aug. 29), with additional home events (non-conference, intraconference and postseason) flowing throughout the year, a major visibility boost for student athletes and a production streamline for athletics communications staff across the league.

### CCIW FALL SPORTS 2025-2026 RESPECT AWARDS

Eight Carroll University student-athletes were recognized for exemplifying the CCIW's core values of Responsibility, Enthusiasm, Service, Pride, Excellence, Commitment and Teamwork. Honorees represent a wide range of sports, including golf, tennis, soccer, cross country, volleyball and football. The CCIW RESPECT Award celebrates individuals displaying exceptional character, leadership and integrity. Winners are selected by their program for embodying the traits that define sportsmanship and positive team culture. Carroll's recognition highlights the university's continued emphasis on developing student-athletes who meaningfully contribute on and off the field. Head to [GoPios.com](http://GoPios.com) to see the winners.



# CLASS NOTES

Please send us your news, such as:

- Weddings and births
- New jobs and promotions
- Academic and professional degrees
- Church, volunteer and community service activities
- Awards and achievements
- Address and name changes

Email The Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@carrollu.edu](mailto:alumni@carrollu.edu) or mail to:

Carroll University  
The Office of Alumni Engagement  
100 N. East Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186

The following class notes were received between May 1-Nov. 1, 2025.

## 1970s

**Paul Sinclair '70** has retired after several decades of serving in the pastorate. In his free time, he now finds joy in grandparenting and leading chapels and Bible studies in Wisconsin correctional institutions. Sinclair also serves as a part-time chaplain at businesses across southeast Wisconsin.



**Diane (White) Peterson '75** earned the Abbott World Marathon Majors Six Star Medal at the Tokyo Marathon in March 2025. She has completed marathons in New York City, Chicago, Boston, Berlin and London. In her age group, Peterson stands out as one of only 100 women to be granted this medal. (see Photo)

**Joe Sabol '75** was a co-author on "Correlation between magnetism and the Verwey transition in magnetite," published in the American Physical Review Journal B 111, 245161 on June 30, 2025.

## 1980s



**Gordy King '84** retired from a 42-year career in banking, serving most recently as the Executive Vice President Chief Credit Officer and Director of Loan Operations at National Exchange Bank and Trust. (see Photo)

**Gordy and his spouse, Jayne (Perry) King '84**, plan to spend time on their sailboat, skiing out west, vacationing in Florida and enjoying their five grandkids.

**Susan (Johnson) Loomis '85** began work as an accountant for the Franciscan Friars of The Assumption BVM Province in Franklin, WI.

## 1990s



**Suzanne Grzanna '91** released her tenth album, Cat's Meow XO, in August 2025. (see Photo)

**Sean Mars '93**, former Oak Creek police officer, leads nonprofit CharityEZ. The platform is designed to support nonprofit leaders through collaborative think tanks, software and hands-on coaching. All services are free of cost.



**Crystal (Weedall) FitzSimons '93** was selected to serve as President of the Food Research & Action Center's National Anti-Hunger Organization. She has been with FRAC for 26 years, most recently serving as FRAC's interim president since July 2024. (see Photo)

**Susan Switalski '97** was awarded a Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Organizational Change from Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio.

**Rebeca (Borrero) Perez '00** married Edsel Perez in Waukesha, Wisconsin on Sept. 12, 2025. She also began a new role as Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications at Carroll University in August 2025. (see Photo)

## 2000s



**Megan Dietz '01** was awarded the 2025 Rising Star Award at the 54th Annual Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinator Association Conference. She was recognized for her current work and potential for ongoing excellence in the field of Volunteer Coordination.



**Kelli Send '06**, Senior Vice President of Financial Wellness and Co-Founder of Francis LLC, has been awarded the Legacy Award from the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Financial Literacy. She was recognized for her decades of excellent service increasing Wisconsin residents' financial literacy. (see Photo)

**Christopher Faulk '06** graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in May with a master's in theology. He is currently pursuing ordination at the United Church of Christ.

**Lauren (Radonski) Ruff '07** was announced as one of the 2025 Emerging Leaders of Waukesha County. This award celebrates up-and-coming professionals who have shown personal initiative, determination and commitment to their careers and their community.

## 2010s

**Jessica Reimer '11** works at McHenry County College as a Graphic Designer. She has held this role since Feb. 2013.

**Lindsey (Weisensel) Packowski '14** welcomed her son, Caden James Packowski, on May 5, 2025. He is already adored by his two older siblings, Elise and Noah.



**Michael Ameel '15** married Sam Steiber on April 5, 2025.

The wedding took place in Palm Springs. (see Photo)



**Bryn Saunders '15** was named the Minnesota State High School League Cross Country Coach of the Year for Class AA Girls. Saunders has been the Head Coach for the Boys and Girls XC teams at DeLaSalle High School since 2019. (see Photo)

**Nicole (May) Newkirk '17** welcomed baby Windsor Boniface Newkirk in Dec. 2024!



**Anna Hessner '19** married **Alexander David Pronschinske '18**, on July 6, 2024. The ceremony was held outdoors at Carroll and the reception was held in Stackner Ballroom. (see Photo)

Anna and Alex reside in Washington Heights and are both teaching in the Milwaukee area. Anna's parents, Susan Kaufman Hessner and Martin Hessner also graduated from Carroll in 1985.

## 2020s

**Alyssa Kaiser '20** is celebrating her 1-year anniversary at Inova Loudoun Hospital Cardiopulmonary Rehab Department as an Exercise Physiologist.

**Amanda Czerwinski '22** has published two articles in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology, showcasing her extensive research and dedication to advancing respiratory healthcare.



**Emma (Owen) Wilson '24** and Zach Wilson married in July 2024. She also accepted a position alongside Eli Lilly and became a first-time aunt. (see Photo)

# Join the Conversation!

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# Let's STAY connected!

Scan the QR code to update your contact information today!

CARROLL UNIVERSITY

## IN MEMORIAM

Please email news of passings to  
The Office of Alumni Engagement at:  
alumni@carrollu.edu or mail to:

Carroll University  
The Office of Alumni Engagement  
100 N. East Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186

The following notices were received  
between May 1-Nov. 1, 2025.

### 1940s

**Magdalen Schafer '47**, age 100, died peacefully of natural causes in Bethesda, Maryland with her family by her side on June 22, 2025.

**Louise Butterbaugh '48**, age 98, passed away peacefully on Jan. 21, 2025 in Cambridge, Wisconsin.

### 1950s

**Marilyn Jean Hill '51**, age 96, died peacefully on Oct. 27, 2025.

**Barbara Koehler '51**, age 95, died peacefully on Friday, June 13, 2025 in West Bend, Wisconsin with her family by her side.

**Betty Lou Soe '52**, age 95, died on Oct. 18, 2025 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. She attended Carroll, where she majored in Music Education, sang in the choir and was a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

**Alfeo Testolin '54**, age 96, passed away Monday, May 5, 2025. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity.

**Dorothy Putnam '54**, age 93, passed away on Sept. 15, 2025. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert E. Putnam whom she met at Carroll.

**Donald Gumm '55**, age 92, died on Sept. 20, 2025.

**Jay Schuster '56**, age 90, peacefully passed away on May 9, 2025.

**James Rossen '56**, age 90, passed away on Oct. 1, 2025.

**Donald Hannon '57**, age 90, died on April 10, 2025 in Indianapolis. Don is survived by his wife Joanne J. Hannon whom he met at Carroll.

**Earl Oak '57**, age 88, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 27, 2024 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria whom he met at Carroll.

**Ann Roberts '57**, age 89, died on Oct. 25, 2025 from end stage Parkinson's Disease.

**Sylvia Clare Nelson '58**, age 89, died on Sept. 1, 2025 in Harmony Utica Ridge nursing home.



**Evelyn (Davies) Otto '58**, age 88, peacefully passed away July 18, 2025 in Mequon, Wisconsin. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology and was a

member of the sorority Alpha Gamma Delta.

Evie met her husband **Bruce Otto** at Carroll and they were united in marriage in 1958. Evie worked briefly as a substitute teacher, however her most cherished role was that of a stay-at-home mom, nurturing and supporting her family with a warm smile and a welcoming spirit.

*Evie is part of a celebrated legacy family with nearly 60 members of the extended Davies family attending or graduating from Carroll.*

The Ottos were generous supporters of the campus throughout the years establishing three endowed scholarship funds to support students in sociology and the sciences.

**Judith Sanford '58**, age 90, passed away on Aug. 19, 2025 in McHenry, Illinois.

**Lee Olsen '59**, age 88, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2025 in Fargo, North Dakota.

**Mary Lou Marose '59**, age 87, passed away peacefully on May 27, 2025 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

### 1960s

**Erroll Everson '60**, age 86, of Montgomery, Ohio died March 6, 2025.

**Milton Holl '60**, age 87, peacefully passed away on Sept. 19, 2025 surrounded by family in his home.



**Calvin Stoney '60**, age 88, passed away Aug. 6, 2025, in Geneva, Illinois. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, dedication to family, and impactful professional work in

philanthropy and education. Cal met his wife, **Judy Stoney '62**, during his college years, and together they built a life grounded in love, faith, and community. He cherished his children—Cheryl Mora, **Laura Stoney '86**, and Elizabeth Schield—as well as his grandchildren and many dear friends.

**William Wolfe '60**, age 87, passed away on Aug. 1, 2025 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

**Jay Lorenz '61**, age 86, died on Aug. 20, 2025 in Metamora, Illinois. Jay was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

**Ronald Ray Humcke '62**, died peacefully at his home in Bend, Oregon on Dec. 11, 2024 at the age of 88 after a three-year battle with cancer. He served with the Army in 1956 for two years where he played football and was a member of the rifle team. Ron graduated from Carroll with a bachelor's in business. While at Carroll, he played football and was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Ron is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Joan Westhauser Humcke '60**, his five children and ten grandchildren.

**Walter Lohman '62**, age 84, passed away on Feb. 12, 2025.

**Gary Meinert '62**, age 84, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2024 in Sebring, Florida. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Karlyn Meinert '61**, and other family members.

**Keith Kemp '62**, age 84, passed away at his home on June 2, 2025.

**Janet Vineyard '62**, age 87, passed away on Jan. 24, 2025.

**Harry Miller '63**, age 84, passed away Sept. 1, 2025.

**Maureen Wreczycki '65**, age 81, died May 10, 2025 at Garden View Assisted Living under the care of LeRoy Hospice.

**Thomas Rappis '67**, age 82, died peacefully on Sept. 8, 2025 at Waukesha Memorial Hospital in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Tim was part of the Carroll football team.

**Robert Atterbury '67**, age 80, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Oct. 13, 2025, following a brief battle with brain cancer.

**Robert Rymer '68**, age 78, passed away on Feb. 3, 2025 in Panama City Beach, FL with his wife **Kay Rymer '72** by his side. Bob was a math teacher in the Menomonee Falls Schools system for 35 years, enriching the lives of thousands of students. His true passion was coaching, and he was the head cross country coach, coaching multiple team and individual state champions.

**Susan Ellison '68**, age 79, passed away Sept. 26, 2025.

**Deborah Holz '69**, age 78, passed away peacefully at her home on Aug. 2, 2025, surrounded by her children. She was preceded in death by her husband Gregg whom she met at Carroll.

**Neal Kleemann '69**, age 78, passed away on May 4, 2025 after an extended struggle with dementia.

### 1970s

**Carolyn Leach '70**, age 76, passed away on Oct. 13, 2025 at the University of Iowa Health Care Medical Center.

**James Covelli '72**, age 74, passed away unexpectedly at his home on May 26, 2025. James graduated with a degree in Business Administration and played on the football team.

**Carol Nyman '75**, age 72, died on Dec. 13, 2024 at her home in Hayward, Wisconsin.

**Keith Smukowski '75**, age 70, died on Feb. 3, 2024.

**Christopher Starck '76**, age 71, passed away Aug. 16, 2025 peacefully in his home.

**Ingrid Lawrenz '78**, age 68, passed away on Aug. 25, 2025 after a brief but difficult illness.

**Michael Klug '78**, age 70, died in his home on Oct. 4, 2025.

**Leroy Cunningham '78**, age 69, passed away suddenly on Sept. 23, 2025, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**James Driver Jr '78**, age 69, passed away on Oct. 13, 2025.

**Micah Schlobohm '79**, age 67 died unexpectedly on July 13, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri.

### 1980s

**Todd Sobrisky '84**, age 63, passed away on May 18, 2025. He played football and wrestled for Carroll.

**Tari Rajchel '87**, age 60, passed away on June 23, 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota surrounded by family.

**Nadine Steidl '87**, age 60, passed away on Sept. 11, 2025.

**Duane Loomis '88**, age 61, passed away on July 8, 2025.

### 1990s

**Terri Leigh Apgar '91**, age 56, died in a tragic car accident on Oct. 20, 2025. She celebrated 30 years of marriage to her husband David Apgar.

**Timothy Schultz '92**, age 64, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 23, 2025.

**Nathan Ridgely '93**, age 53, passed away on Feb. 14, 2025 in Chandler, Arizona. Nate majored in Theatre Arts with an emphasis on stage design and technical theatre. As a member of the Carroll Players, he contributed to many campus productions with technical work that included sound, set and lighting design, and won Best Sound Design for the 1992-1993 season.

**Michelle Burke '99**, age 46, passed away on Jan. 25, 2025.

### 2000s

**Heidi Wasileski '02**, age 68, passed away on April 7, 2025.

### Friends of Carroll

**Arlene Stanfield**, age 103, passed away on July 20, 2025.

### Past Parent

**Avis Fisher**, age 95, passed away on March 23, 2025 in Fort Collins, CO after a recent fall.

**Elliott Engberg**, age 86, died at home surrounded by family on May 24, 2025.

**Ronald Osiecki**, age 90, passed away July 6, 2025 surrounded by his family.

### Former Staff



**Allen Armour**, age 90, passed away on May 13, 2025. Al dedicated 58 years of service and dedication to the Carroll University campus while working in Facilities. Prior to

Carroll he taught in the Waukesha Public School system from 1960-1990.

**Mary Duchow**, age 79, peacefully passed away on June 20, 2025. Mary devoted many years to her family as a homemaker before later working as an administrative assistant at Carroll.

**Elizabeth Towell**, age 72, passed away on July 5, 2025 in Pueblo, Colorado after a battle with uterine cancer. Elizabeth taught in the Computer Science department at Carroll from 1987-1993 and again from 1999-2009. In the last years of her second term at Carroll, she also served as Vice Provost.

CARROLL  
UNIVERSITY



# Celebrating 180-Years with 180 New OLD MAIN SOCIETY Members: Become a NEW member TODAY!

# The Power of Philanthropy at Work: YOU Can Make a DIFFERENCE!

A gift to Carroll allows us to set our students on a path to success. The alumni noted below recently received Distinguished Alumni Awards. The gifts from alumni, parents and friends over the years made their Carroll experiences possible. Your gifts impact our students and their future every day!



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- Open doors for students regardless of financial ability
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**OLD MAIN SOCIETY**  
CARROLL UNIVERSITY

<b>BRONZE LEVEL</b>	<b>\$1,000-\$2,499*</b>
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<b>PLATINUM LEVEL</b>	<b>\$10,000-\$24,999</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE</b>	<b>\$25,000+</b>

\*Young alumni (up to 10 years post graduation) will receive Bronze benefits with a gift of \$500-\$999 in a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).



**SAMANTHA GONZÁLEZ '20** — Nursing Major  
NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONER, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

"I didn't realize how profoundly the Carroll mission would continue to shape my life after graduation. Working in healthcare, I often find myself present in some of the saddest and most frightening moments my patients experience—and it's in those moments that I feel a deep responsibility to give back."



**JOHN HARRIS '86** — Communication Major  
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER, A5 BRANDING & DIGITAL

"If you come to Carroll, you have the opportunity to learn and grow as an individual—but also grow as a valued member of a larger community. Carroll believes in the power of community and alumni take that mission when they graduate and have impact on their own communities as they go forward."



**DR. SAUNDRA (JOHNSTON) TRACY '68** — Spanish and Sociology Major  
PRESIDENT EMERITA, ALMA COLLEGE

"I used to tell students, 'What do you do with an education from a liberal arts institution? Anything you want to.' And I really believe that. What do you do with a degree in Spanish and Sociology? Anything you want to. And indeed, I think my career followed that path."



**JOE ZVESPER '76** — Accounting Major  
CHAIRMAN & CEO, KROLL | FORMER CEO, AMERICAN APPRAISAL

"The liberal arts taught me to think critically, speak clearly and write persuasively which has been so important for all my successes in life. I left Carroll being able to think—and think conceptually and that is invaluable whatever your field, whatever your vocation."



**ROBERT LAMPEREUR '85** — Computer Science Major  
SOFTWARE ENGINEER & CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, CO-FOUNDER OF THE STONINGTON GROUP

"I had this opportunity to work on the Kepler space telescope, looking for planets that could support life in other solar systems. Aerospace has been the thing that has lit a fire in me for decades. And I can go back to the computer science classes I had at Carroll that cultivated that passion. I am appreciative Carroll gave me the education that allowed me to become the person I am today."



**JUSTIN JASNIOWSKI '13** — Actuarial Science Major  
CEO, SERVE YOU RX

"The personal growth that I experienced at Carroll provided me the foundation to be successful in the workplace and in the community. Beyond just the academics, the altruism Carroll imparts on their students really made an impact on me and helped shape the person I am today."

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **DIFFERENCE** YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL MAKE!  
Contact Heather Uzowulu in the Institutional Advancement Office at [huzowulu@carrollu.edu](mailto:huzowulu@carrollu.edu)

VISIT [carrollu.edu/giving-back/old-main-society](http://carrollu.edu/giving-back/old-main-society) FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT BECOMING AN OLD MAIN SOCIETY MEMBER

# Carroll's Expanded Footprint

# Over the Years

Shattuck Auditorium opens (first called Shattuck Chapel and Music Hall): 1967



Dennis Panches Track and Field Complex is dedicated: 2008



Doug and Nancy Hastad Hall is completed and opens: 2017



Schneider Stadium is dedicated: 2004

Carroll University Graduate Center opens: 2010



Michael and Mary Jaharis Science Laboratories opens: 2018



Prairie Hall opens: 2013



Crofts Morava Pavilion is built: 2015



Howard T. Greene Scientific Study and Conservancy is gifted: 1970

*Inset Photo: Dr. John Batha '49, Emeritus of Biology*



Otteson Theater is dedicated: 1979



Aerial Photo of Carroll College: 1966



Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center opens: 2016

*\*Note: the timeline is not comprehensive.*

*The heart and generosity of Carroll still remains  
and will remain for many years to come.*

**FROM THE ARCHIVES:**

Historic letter from Bob Bray '53, Carroll Alumni Director from 1969-1983,  
to Joan Betson '52.

