

Scholarships in Action >>>

> Nursing School Receives Renewed \$4 Million Grant to Support Four-Year Scholarships

Dedicated to addressing the nation's nursing shortage with grant funding for nursing scholarships, the Bedford Falls Foundation Charitable Trust has renewed a \$4 million commitment that benefits promising undergraduate students in the School of Nursing.

The William and Joanne Conway Nursing Scholars Program — designed to expose high-achieving undergraduate students to careers in nursing and to encourage them to fill nursing jobs in the Washington, D.C., area after graduation — is a path to success for young people who want to become baccalaureate-prepared nurses. The renewed grant, which again includes \$1 million annual installments over four years, will continue to provide foundational support to the academically qualified students named Conway Scholars. In this partnership, the nursing school will continue to provide Conway Scholars with opportunities for clinical placements and summer internships, primarily in the Washington, D.C., area.

The Bedford Falls Foundation Charitable Trust was established by William E. Conway Jr., co-chief executive officer and managing director of The Carlyle Group, and his wife, Joanne. The foundation made its first \$4 million commitment to CUA in 2013. Now in its third year, it has significantly increased the number of students pursuing Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. According to Patricia McMullen, dean of nursing, nearly a third of the current junior class are Conway Scholars.

The Conway scholarships cover tuition, fees,

room and board, and books. The grant also funds a position for a faculty mentor who works with the scholars throughout their studies. In addition, the grant supports a review course to prepare students in the program for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses that they take following graduation.

"We are enormously grateful to Bedford Falls, and its trustees, William and Joanne Conway, for their generosity," said McMullen. "The renewal of this very generous grant will play a significant role in increasing the number of students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree."

McMullen noted that B.S.N. preparation tremendously improves patient outcomes. "In short, education is a good deal! Not only for nurses, but for those for whom we care," said McMullen. "Our Conway Scholars will cast a wide net over the course of their careers and positively impact literally thousands of patients and their families."

During a visit this fall, Conway shared with McMullen and the Conway Scholars (pictured below) why he and his wife decided to invest in the nursing profession.

"My wife and I are pleased to renew this commitment and very happy with the progress to date," he said. "The program reflects our strong belief that our future health care professionals need to be both competent and compassionate, and we are proud to know that the program at CUA emphasizes both."

— E.L.W.





Joe Fisher, B.A. 1975, and Ronny Lancaster, B.A. 1973, are dedicated to continuing the legacy that brought them to Catholic University.

> Scholarships Honor Student Activists

This past October, two juniors and two seniors — Jenai Bell, B.A. 2017; Kimberly Myers, B.S.N. 2017; Ruth Delgado, B.S. 2016; and Camille Sanchez, B.A. 2016 — were awarded scholarships from the Thaddeus Aubry-Leon LeBuffe Endowment, which offers financial support to minority students. The award ceremony, held during Cardinal Weekend, marked the official endowment of the scholarship, which was established to honor and continue the work of two student activists: Thaddeus Aubry, B.A. 1966, and Leon LeBuffe, M.A. 1971, Ph.D. 1974.

Ronny Lancaster, B.A. 1973, and Joe Fisher, B.A. 1975, co-chairs of the endowment effort and leaders of the alumni chapter of the Black Organization of Students at The Catholic University of America, were proud to announce this milestone.

“Above all, the endowment recognizes the commitment of these two men who worked to provide opportunities for minority students to attend and graduate from Catholic University,” said Fisher. “Their vision, determination, and tenacity is what made it possible for me and Ronny and many others to attend Catholic University over four decades ago.”

In 1969, Aubry and LeBuffe started working with the University administration, as well as the local business community, to launch the Partnership Program. The program sought to enroll inner-city students in Washington, D.C., and to provide them with the aid and academic support they needed to graduate from CUA. In the beginning, the business community and the University split the costs of providing 35 half-tuition scholarships. At the end of the first year, the University

assumed the full cost of the program.

“At that time in history, the University was beginning to see itself as a citizen of the community and wanted to take advantage of what it saw as an opportunity to create something very positive,” said Fisher. “By offering resources to students who showed academic promise, they made it possible for kids from low-income families to gain a college education.”

Endowed scholarships, like the one created by Lancaster and Fisher, create a lasting inheritance for future students. The most recent endowments at CUA range in size from \$50,000 — the minimum amount needed to initiate a named endowed fund — to \$500,000. When established, the original gift amount is retained in perpetuity and the revenue provides annual awards to students on a continual basis.

“Our goal is to match the donor’s desires with institutional needs,” explains Scott Rembold, vice president for University Advancement. “Because scholarships have become essential to nearly every student, it is imperative that the University makes these types of endowments a priority. Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Fisher are creating a tremendous legacy.”

Lancaster and Fisher are paving the way for the next generation, as Aubry and LeBuffe did 47 years ago.

“Without Thad and Leon, and without the Partnership Program, students like us may have not gone to college and most certainly would not have come to CUA,” said Lancaster. “They played a pivotal role in us being here, and we are proud to continue building on what they started.” — E.L.W.

> Generosity Repaid

A kind act motivated an alumnus to write a \$10,000 check at his 50th reunion.

Alberto Delgado, B.S.Chem.E. 1965, came to Catholic University in 1961. He was a first-generation college student, who traveled to Washington, D.C., from Havana after his grandmother encouraged him to apply.

“I had very little money,” he said. “I had to work in order to study, washing dishes and working as a waiter in Caldwell Hall, where the student priests were housed. In addition, I worked at the Mullen Library 20 hours a week shelving books.”

Besides providing tuition money, Delgado’s work-study jobs helped him establish a network of mentors on campus. By his senior year, the priests he befriended were helping him to make ends meet.

All was going well until his final semester, when his father — who was living in Mexico City — suddenly passed away.

“My father left Cuba in October 1964 for Mexico. He lived with my cousins while he was applying for a U.S. resident visa at the

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Classmates (left to right) Maurice Astorga, B.S.Chem.E. 1965, M.S. 1967, David Pettit, B.S.Chem.E. 1965, and Alberto Delgado, B.S.Chem.E. 1965, celebrate together in Heritage Hall at the Golden Cardinals reunion during Cardinal Weekend 2015.

continued from previous page

American Embassy in Mexico City,” said Delgado. “My mother and my two sisters were in Miami at the time, but they did not have any money to handle the transport and burial expenses when my father passed away. It was just me, and I had to drop everything. The assistant chaplain, Father McCarrick, came to my rescue.”

Rev. Theodore McCarrick, M.A. 1960, Ph.D. 1963, L.H.D. 2006, later to be named Cardinal McCarrick, was one of the priests that Delgado had met during his years of work-study. He heard about Delgado’s father’s death and tapped into the University’s emergency funds to cover some expenses. That emergency support enabled Delgado to travel to Mexico to bury his father, and ensured that he would be able to continue his studies and graduate.

“I was able to meet with Archbishop McCarrick many years later and tell him how grateful I was for his help,” said Delgado. “And, on the 50th anniversary of my graduation, I wanted to do something for the University.”

When Delgado came back to campus in 2015 for Cardinal Weekend, he wrote a \$10,000 check to the Cardinal Charities Dean’s Fund, which supports students with emergency expenses.

“Graduating from college is a dream that is within the reach of all our students,” says Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Jonathan Sawyer. “That said, occasionally, there are serious hurdles that students must face during their time at CUA. Funds like this can help us to provide a safety net if and when an extenuating circumstance arises.”

For Delgado, it made all the difference.

“My education is very important to me,” he said. “Without it, I would be nothing. I hope that the fund can help others in the way I was helped.”

— E.L.W.



Construction Begins on Murphy’s: A New Campus Social Hub

A celebration and tour took place on March 14 with the University trustees and other lead project donors to mark the official start of construction for Murphy’s, the highly anticipated new student lounge space and restaurant that will be located in the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center.

The new installation is a tribute to alumnus Mike Murphy, B.A. 1974, M.A. 1975, who passed away in 2007. During his years at CUA, Murphy and his friends, like countless other alumni of their era, spent their time at the Rathskeller (the “Rat”) discussing history and politics, enjoying food and drink. The Rat closed when the Pryzbyla Center opened in 2003.

In the wake of his passing, Murphy’s friends launched fund-raising efforts to open a new gathering place, a legacy to his dedication to the University, where future generations of students will gather and foster lifelong friendships.

“This renovation is part of a larger, multi-step plan to make the Pryzbyla Center an even

more friendly, comfortable, and desirable destination spot for students and members of the campus community,” said Mike Allen, vice president for student affairs.

During the summer, the second floor of the old bookstore will be converted into a lounge with comfortable seating, TVs, a pool table, fireplace, space for entertainment, and a sound system. This phase of the renovation will be complete by the start of the fall 2016 semester. Plans for the lower bookstore include a restaurant and pub; a construction date has yet to be finalized.

“We are especially grateful to the many alumni and donors who have made this first portion of the project a reality,” said Allen. The University raised more than \$4 million from alumni and friends and has nearly completed raising the \$4.5 million needed to build the restaurant and pub. Many of the lead donors were on hand for the celebration. — M.S.

Look for more news about the Murphy’s opening in future editions of the magazine.

To support the Thaddeus Aubry-Leon LeBuffe Endowment, the Cardinal Charities Dean’s Fund, or Murphy’s construction, visit giving.cuatoday.com to make a gift.