



CABRINI COLLEGE

WOLFINGTON CENTER

Wolfington Center Newsletter

Volume I, Issue II

Winter, 2012

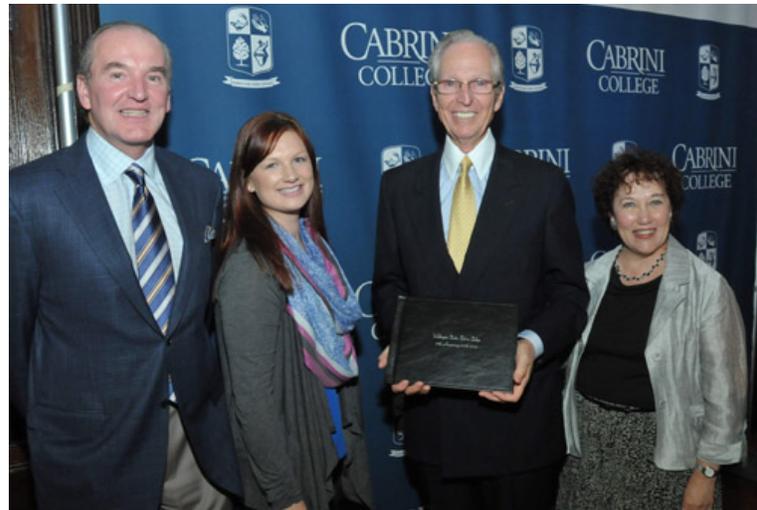
The Wolfington Center at Cabrini College fosters community-based learning through Catholic social teaching and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's legacy of an "education of the heart." Established in 2002 through the generosity of J. Eustace and Marcy Wolfington, the Wolfington Center promotes Cabrini's *Justice Matters* core curriculum and supports students, faculty, staff, and administrators in their engagement with social justice.

Wolfington Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On September 19, 2012, Cabrini celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Wolfington Center with the Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and a formal program. The family of J. Eustace Wolfington was the featured guests of honor.

Cabrini College President Marie George, Board Vice Chair Tom Nerney '77, and Kelsey Kastrava '12 presented J. Eustace Wolfington with an album, capturing the spirit and activities of the Center during the past decade. Stephen Eberle, coordinator of community partnerships, worked extensively to compile photos and reflections from current and former students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

Several speakers comprised the formal program for the celebration. Dean for Academic Affairs Jeff Gingerich highlighted the key connection between the Wolfington Center and Cabrini's *Justice Matters* curriculum. Genny O'Donnell, executive director of the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center of Norristown, Pa., delivered a heart-wrenching testimony highlighting the impact Cabrini's community outreach, especially through the Wolfington Center, has had on transforming her and other people's lives previously on the margin of society.



L-R: Board Vice Chair Tom Nerney '77, Kelsey Kastrava '12, J. Eustace Wolfington, and President Marie A. George

Finally, John Francis Burke, Ph.D., the first executive director of the Wolfington Center, discussed the Center's future. He outlined how the Center operates and how it will be continue to connect with students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators to further Catholic social teaching that leads to transformative community engagement. Burke projected how the Center will be expanding the number of partnerships especially with Catholic social justice organizations and exploring ways to offer continuing education credits for social workers, teachers, and faith-based ministers.

Cabrini Day – Honoring the Legacy of Mother Cabrini

This year's theme for Cabrini Day, an annual celebration of the legacy of Mother Cabrini, was "We the People: Democracy and Diversity."

The day began with student poster presentations on the theme and a student panel on the environment and democracy. Following the annual brunch, in which faculty and staff volunteers served food to the students, a formal ceremony was held in the Grace Hall Atrium.



Mark Schnellbaecher, Catholic Relief Services

President Marie George presented the Mastronardi Award—an award given annually to students who have made an outstanding contribution to leadership in service to the community—to Jessica Marone '13 and Amy Rodden '13.

Mark Schnellbaecher, a visiting scholar from Catholic Relief Services—a principal partner of Cabrini College, gave the keynote address on the topic of religious freedom and democracy in the Middle East. Schnellbaecher cautioned that the onset of democracy in the Middle East in the wake of the Arab Spring has not been positive for religious freedom. He pointed out that not only are non-Islamic communities targets for persecution by Islamic faith-based regimes, but also subgroups within the Islamic faith community.

Following the presentation, Vonya Womack, professor of business administration, Alia Sheety, professor of education, and Rasha Sharhan '13 gave incisive responses to Schnellbaecher's presentation. John Francis Burke, Ph.D., executive director of the Wolfington Center, moderated the program, and Wolfington Center student workers served as ushers and facilitators for the question-and-answer period.

Go Team WildCavs!

By Danielle M. Jones '13, psychology major with sociology minor, Pierce Scholar

I had the pleasure of working with the seventh and eighth graders in Norristown this fall 2012 semester. I was eager to meet, interact with youth, and get a better understanding of their hopes with this program. Right from the very beginning, the students were excited to meet and spend time with the Cabrini students.

One of the first community-building activities completed was coming up with a name for the afterschool program. One seventh-grader suggested “The Team,” stressing the importance of working together to reach common goals. The maturity of her response amazed me and the Cabrini students in the Engagements with the Common Good (ECG) 200 class; we quickly realized the opportunity we had to make a positive impact on their lives. It was the beginning of a collaborative effort between the middle school students and Cabrini students that would impact us in many significant ways.

The highlight of this fall semester’s afterschool program was the Norristown school’s trip to Cabrini College. The ECG 200 class served as campus tour guides, giving a complete and personalized tour to the students and chaperones. Some highlights of the campus tour included visiting the residence halls, recreation time in the RAC Grille and Dixon Center, and visiting the bookstore. The students even had the opportunity to participate in a workshop about college majors and professions. The campus visit was an absolute success—some of the middle-school students declared, “We’re going to stay at Cabrini forever!” The curiosity and enthusiasm the students had towards going to college and pursuing their goals and dreams gave me such joy and pleasure, additionally reinforcing my decision to become an educator.

By the end of the semester, the ECG 200 students and I had made connections with many of the middle school students. It was bittersweet to end the program for the semester, but I am looking forward to assisting the ECG 200 class during the spring semester in 2013. Many more memories will be made, and I will carry these experiences with me throughout the rest of my academic and professional career. The “Youth Empowerment” program from the Pierce Scholarship continues to demonstrate how it is important to have children aspire to be successful in whatever they choose to do, and not let limitations of race, gender, or age prevent them from all they set out to accomplish.

Spring Speaker Series

Ecumenical Faith Reflections on International Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of John XXIII's Peace on Earth

Feb. 19 **Rev. Fred Kammer, SJ**, Jesuit Social Research Institute (Loyola University – New Orleans)

The Future of Solidarity: Changes and Challenges Facing Catholic Social Thought

7:15 p.m., Mansion

Feb. 27 **Gerald Beyer**, Professor, St. Joseph's University

John XXIII and Human Rights: The Implications for Today

7:15 p.m., Grace Hall Board Room

March 13 **Rabbi Seth Goren**, Lehigh University

You Were a Stranger: Reflections on Pacem in Terris, Power and Privilege

7:15 p.m., Grace Hall Board Room

March 20 **Rasheeda Ahmad**, Professor, Cabrini College

Islamic Perspectives on International Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

7:15 p.m., Grace Hall Board Room

March 26 **Leonard Primiano**, Professor, Cabrini College

The Father Divine Peace Movement

7:15 p.m., Grace Hall Board Room

April 3 **Rev. Anthony Campolo**, Professor, Eastern University

A Baptist Engagement of International Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

7:15 p.m., Grace Hall Board Room

April 10 **Daniel Seeger**, American Friends Services Committee

Can You Have One Without the Other?: Peace and Justice in Pacem et Terris and in

Quaker Spirituality

7:15 p.m., Widener Lecture Hall

April 17 **Nick Rademacher**, Professor, Cabrini College
Thomas Merton on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding
7:15 p.m., Widener Lecture Hall

April 28 **Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation**
Tenth Annual Peace Walk, Center City Philadelphia

This speaker series is supported by the U.S. Institute of Peace Public Education for Peacebuilding Support Initiative.



For more information about this Speaker Series, contact:

- John Francis Burke, Ph.D., (610-902-8234, jfb76@cabrini.edu)
- Mary Shrader (610-902-8431, mfs46@cabrini.edu)

Upcoming Wolfington Center Events

March 15

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fair Trade Gathering of the Catholic Colleges & Universities in the Philadelphia Region

This program is underwritten by a grant from Catholic Relief Services.

- For more information, contact Erin McLaughlin, assistant professor of business administration, at 610-902-1019 or erin.m.mclaughlin@cabrini.edu.

April 7

10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Catholic Relief Services Ambassadors Food Fast

- For more information, contact Clare Pressimone at cypressimone@gmail.com.

Who's Who in the Wolfington Center

John Francis Burke, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

John Francis Burke, Ph.D., was professor of political science, director of the Rev. William J. Young Social Justice Institute, and director of the Social Justice Studies Program at the University of St. Thomas, a Catholic university in Houston. Burke also held faculty positions at the University of Houston-Downtown, Delta State University, and Texas State University at San Marcos.

The author of *Mestizo Democracy* (Texas A&M Press, 2002), Burke has published extensively on political theory and multicultural relations in such journals as *The Review of Politics* and *Commonweal*. He also regularly conducts workshops dealing with social justice and multicultural issues.

A native of Bethlehem, Pa., Burke earned doctoral and master's degrees in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Moravian College in Bethlehem.

- “No man is free who is not master of themselves.” —Epictetus

Crystal Catalan, *Marketing Assistant*

Crystal Catalan focuses on developing and implementing new strategies to engage the Cabrini community actively with local partners.

A communication studies graduate from the University of San Diego, she also served as a missionary with Cabrini Mission Corps for one year in New York, and two years in Baguio City, Philippines. With a passion to eradicate human trafficking, especially among women and children, Catalan looks to her experience in marketing as an opportunity to spread awareness and bring about change.

- “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”
—Frederick Buechner

Stephen Eberle, *Community Partnerships Liaison*

Stephen Eberle serves as the liaison between the Norristown community and Cabrini faculty working in the Engagements with Common Good curriculum. He received a B.A. in political science from DeSales University and M.A. in pastoral and spiritual Care from Loyola University Maryland.

An alumnus of the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps, Eberle worked as a community organizer in West Baltimore before taking on the role of area director with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps East. In 2008, he brought his passion for social justice to Cabrini College.

- “Help me to be a beginning to others.” —Ted Loder

Mary Shrader, *Administrative Assistant*

Mary Shrader joined the Wolfington Center staff in 2012. A business major from Keystone Business School, she handles the ins and outs of the office and is the point of contact for much of the Center's activity.

- “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”
—John F. Kennedy

Aaron Bowers '16

Aaron Bowers is a Cabrini student majoring in marketing. His work with the Wolfington Center focuses on marketing programs and services via social media and creating marketing material.

With a passion for education, hunger, and fighting poverty, Bowers hopes to use his marketing skills to bring about awareness of social-justice issues.

- “If you rest, you rust.” —Helen Hayes

Mariel Delacruz '16

Mariel Delacruz is a Cabrini student majoring in psychology and criminology who is working to reinstate the International Club on campus.

She works closely with Somos Cabrini, a program that allows Spanish-speaking staff to practice conversational English with Cabrini students while helping students practice conversational Spanish. Mariel, who is fluent in Spanish, serves as an interpreter at elementary schools in Norristown, Pa.

- “The ignorant man always adores what he cannot understand.” —Cesare Lombroso

Matthew Doyle '13

Matthew Doyle is a Cabrini student majoring in biology with a concentration in biotechnology. He serves as the liaison between student groups and the Wolfington Center.

Hoping to alleviate the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Doyle strives to spread awareness of this issue among Cabrini students.

- “The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you figure out why.”
—Mark Twain

Courtney McGonigle '16

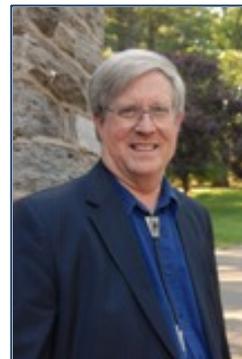
Courtney McGonigle is a Cabrini student majoring in biology on a pre-med track. She has a passion for animal rights and handles general office responsibilities and assists with marketing Wolfington Center programs.

- “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.” —Henry David Thoreau

Facing the Future

The Wolfington Center, as informed by the legacy of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, focuses on the study of Catholic social teaching as a basis for transformative community engagement.

This year, the Center, established through the generosity of the J. Eustace and Marcy Wolfington Family, has celebrated its tenth anniversary. Exciting times lie ahead for the Center during the next decade.



John Francis Burke,
Executive Director

During this holiday season, please consider making a gift in support of the Wolfington Center's outreach and programs. Checks should be made payable to Cabrini College and sent to the Wolfington Center, Cabrini College, 610 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA, 19087.

To give online, visit www.cabrini.edu/giving (designate Wolfington Center).

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