



Touchpoints

ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

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**THE 2019 ALUMNAE
QUESTIONNAIRE IS ENCLOSED!**
PLEASE RETURN OR VISIT
WWW.CEDARCREST.EDU/FEEDBACK.

TO THE ALUMNAE OF CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

At this moment, I feel incredibly proud of our alma mater.

This spring, we welcomed Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade as the 14th president of Cedar Crest College with a series of events culminating in an inspiring inauguration ceremony. Together, alumnae spanning six decades raised over \$130,000 in support of current Cedar Crest students during the Decade Challenge, and the celebration carried into Reunion Weekend, where I connected with many of you and had the opportunity to show off the newly renovated spaces across campus.

I am pleased to highlight this incredible work by launching *Touchpoints*, a new alumnae newsletter. Enclosed you will also find a questionnaire, which we kindly request you complete and return to us. Your feedback ensures that we reach as many of you as possible using your preferred contact information and helps us to update our records.

As you read through these pages, I hope you will share in my overwhelming sense of Cedar Crest pride. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Gallagher

Lori A. Gallagher '08
Director of Alumnae Affairs
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COMMENCEMENT 2019

Following a series of events, including senior week activities, baccalaureate, and an awards ceremony, 309 graduates joined their family, friends, faculty, staff, and alumnae at the PPL Center in Allentown for the culminating commencement ceremony. On May 11, 2019, graduates walked across the stage and into the next chapter of their lives.

Shabana Basij-Rasikh (pictured: bottom right with President Meade), the co-founder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA), gave the inspiring commencement address that connected her passion for educating women in Kabul, Afghanistan to the Cedar Crest mission. She also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cedar Crest College.

“To see so many strong women in caps and gowns at Cedar Crest gave me such joy, and to see them alongside men was powerful. It echoes a message we believe in at SOLA: We educate girls and girls alone, but we see girls’ education as a men’s issue. The benefits reaped by educating girls are ones that can be shared by everyone, men and women alike. Leveling girls up doesn’t mean leveling men down.”

—*Shabana Basij-Rasikh, The Morning Call*
May 25, 2019

INTRODUCING DR. ELIZABETH M. MEADE, 14TH PRESIDENT OF CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

On April 26, 2019, students, faculty, staff, alumnae, dignitaries, and community leaders came together to officially welcome Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade as the president of Cedar Crest College.

Several events were held in the days leading up to Dr. Meade's inauguration, giving the entire community the opportunity to usher in this next chapter of Cedar Crest history together. Events included a faculty lecture, Earth Day community service event, arboretum tour, and tree dedication ceremony.

The highlight of the week was the installation ceremony where, surrounded by colleagues and family, Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade officially became the 14th president of Cedar Crest College. She delivered an inspiring address that confronted the challenges to come, but emphasized her hope for the future.

Following the installation ceremony, alumnae and their families gathered for the dedication of the Alumnae Hall of Fame in Blaney Hall, and students partied on Saturday at Falcon Fest and a presidential ball held just for them.

Dr. Meade has been instrumental to the College's prosperity over her 25 years of service as a professor, department chair, provost, and most recently, the interim president. Under her leadership, Cedar Crest is poised to secure its place as the *Aspiration of Others*.





ALUMNAE HALL OF FAME

The Cedar Crest College Alumnae Hall of Fame was established by President Elizabeth M. Meade, during her inauguration in 2019, to pay tribute to alumnae who have distinguished themselves in their professional or personal lives and have demonstrated support for Cedar Crest College.

The Alumnae Hall of Fame was officially opened during a ceremony in Blaney Hall Lobby on Friday, April 26, 2019.

This year's inductees have exemplary accomplishments in career achievements, professional honors, awards, accomplishments or publications, leadership service to the community on a local, national, or global level, or personal achievement, and have demonstrated past or present service to Cedar Crest College.

THE NEXT INSTALLATION: 2022

Once inducted into the Cedar Crest College Alumnae Hall of Fame, honorees are members for life, but a new class will be inducted every three years, during Reunion Weekend. Future inductees will be selected by a committee of faculty, staff and alumnae through a nomination process based on the following:

CRITERIA

- Must be a graduate of Cedar Crest College.
- Must have graduated at least 15 years prior to their nomination.
- Must have achieved a record of exemplary accomplishment in more than one of the following categories:
 - a. Career Achievements
 - b. Professional Honors, Awards, Accomplishments, or Publications
 - c. Leadership, Service to the Community on a Local, National or Global Level
 - d. Personal Achievement
 - e. Past or Present Service to Cedar Crest College



Photos, a video of the event, and more information about the honorees can be found online at www.cedarcrest.edu/alumnae/ahof.shtm.

“Alumnae are an essential part of the Cedar Crest College community. Every academic and extracurricular program that transforms students while they are enrolled in the College prepares them to transform the lives of those in their communities after they graduate. In my inaugural year as President, I am committed to recognizing those alumnae who have made a difference for Cedar Crest College and the world at large.”



—Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade, President



Dr. Blenda J. Wilson '62

Recognized for Pioneering Spirit and Inclusive Leadership



Dr. Martha "Marty" Schaeffer Tennille '64

Recognized for a Lifetime of Teaching and Service



Ms. Andrea S. Joel '72

Recognized for Award-winning Set Design



Ms. Amelia M. Wagner, Esq. '78

Recognized for Dedication to Cedar Crest College and the Protection of the Environment



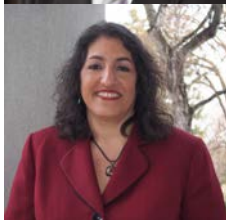
Captain Christine Boltz '80

Recognized for Exemplary Service to Her Country



Mr. Samuel Miranda, Jr., MS, RN, NEA - B.C. '81

Recognized for Excellence in Nursing Care and Leadership



Dr. Lorraine Amory Soisson '88

Recognized for Significant Contributions to Malaria Research



REUNION ★ 2019

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

ANOTHER REUNION FOR THE BOOKS

It was a weekend of chocolate-dipped strawberries, laughter, and friendship as alumnae came home to Cedar Crest for Reunion Weekend from May 17 -19, 2019.

Traveling to Allentown from as far as California and Washington, and representing class years spanning eight decades, alumnae and their families reconnected and swapped stories over good food and drinks while enjoying sunshine on the quad and catching up with faculty.

The Class of 1969 celebrated an important milestone—their 50th reunion—with their induction into the Golden Club, and other honor-year classes enjoyed receptions with their classmates to recognize all that has been achieved since graduating from Cedar Crest.

Photos from the weekend can be viewed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cedarcrestcollege.



Congratulations

to the 2019 award winners!

REUNION RECOGNITION AWARDS

- **K. Roberta White Cup**
Class with Largest Number of Alumnae Returning Class of 1969
- **Nina Danowsky Cup**
Class with Greatest Percentage of Alumnae Returning Class of 1969
- **Mary R. Little Cup**
Alumna Representing the Oldest Class
Betty Jane Jenkins '47
- **Alumnae Returning the Greatest Distance**
Barbara Bliss Irwin '69
from Valencia, CA at 2,395.53 miles
April Barnes '03
from Long Beach, CA at 2,395.10 miles
Kathleen McCullough Beaird '89
from Yelm, WA at 2,388 miles
Denee Meyer Parker '74
from Laguna Niguel, CA at 2,376 miles

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- **Class of 1936 Award**
Greatest Dollars Raised
Class of 1964
- **Class of 1940 Award**
Greatest Percentage of Donors
Class of 1974



DECADE CHALLENGE

MAY 14-16, 2019

THREE DAYS. 284 DONORS.
OVER \$130,000 RAISED ACROSS DECADES.

Over three days, alumnae raised over \$130,000 for the Cedar Crest Fund during The Decade Challenge! THANK YOU so much to everyone who participated, but a special shoutout goes to the overall winning decade: the 1970s!

The class winners for most dollars raised:
The Classes of 1969, 1974, 1987, 1994, 2003, and 2011

The class winners for highest percentage of goal:
The Classes of 1967, 1976, 1985, 1997, 2005, and 2011

Because of incredible alumnae support, we are able to create extraordinary experiences for today's students!

2019 ALUMNAE AWARD WINNER: SUZANNE FISHER STAPLES '67

Suzanne Fisher Staples, Class of 1967 received the 2019 Alumnae Award for Personal Achievement for her work as a world renowned journalist, an award winning author, a screenwriter, a sought after public speaker, a humanitarian, the director of a literary symposium, and a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania.

Throughout her career, Suzanne worked in Evergreen, CO as a reporter for *The Canyon Courier*, held a few jobs in public relations and management and was then tapped, in 1978, to become the Asia Desk Editor for United Press International (UPI), a job for which she moved to Hong Kong.

She eventually became the UPI Bureau Chief for South Asia, based in New Delhi. There she covered India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka, during which time she met Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

After some time back in the US, she returned to Pakistan, as a literacy researcher with the US Agency for International Development, where she helped develop a literacy project for poor rural women. This work inspired her to become a novelist. She writes mainly for young readers and her first book, *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*, about a young woman who must submit to

a marriage her father arranges, or go against centuries of tradition if she defies him, was published in 1989 and it was named a 1990 Newbery Honor Book.

Suzanne credits Cedar Crest and her liberal arts education for helping her to “understand how writers think and how they reflect on the world around them – or the world they’ve invented.” She champions the liberal arts as helping students learn to “think imaginatively” and understand that “people of other cultures and other times regard their lives with the same care that we regard our own.”



THE POWER OF COINCIDENCE

*One alumna's story
of love and a legacy*

REMEMBERING JILL STEWART NARROW '70

STORY BY MICHELE MOYER

Call it serendipity, or fate or whatever you like, but Hank Narrow calls it the Power of Coincidence. He and Jill Stewart first met when they were only 14 years old at the same PAFTY (PA Federation of Temple Youth) conclave. Jill, a resident of Easton, became friends with a girl from Hazelton, Hank's hometown. Their paths crossed occasionally and Hank invited Jill to be his date for his senior prom. They had a wonderful time, but Hank was headed off to college at Penn State University and Jill still had a year of high school. They lost touch, but Hank heard that Jill had been accepted at Cedar Crest College.

At Cedar Crest, Jill embraced her new home. She was active on campus and involved in clubs and groups. She wrote for *The Crestiad*, sang in the choir, was a member of Hillel and Sigma Tau Delta and served as a tutor and mentor. In the late 1960's, women's options were limited. At a time when women were encouraged to become teachers or nurses, Jill wanted to be a writer. Her friends remember her breaking out of the traditional mold to follow her dreams. She studied hard during the week so that she could enjoy time with friends on the weekends. She loved everything about Cedar Crest and was never known to utter a negative comment.

After graduating from Penn State, Hank began working as a news reporter at WKAP in Allentown, PA. He wondered if Jill was still at Cedar Crest College. Yes, she was. That is the Power of Coincidence. So Hank decided to look her up. Jill Stewart was a dual English and sociology major, in her senior year. He asked her out on a date and took her to a Chinese restaurant in Phillipsburg. They spent the whole evening catching up with details about the years since they had last met. At the time, Jill was dating other men she thought at first she liked more than Hank. However, Hank was persistent. With time, respect, admiration and eventually, love, Hank moved up the ranks until he was number one in her heart. And, that is where he stayed for the remainder of Jill's life.

Hank and Jill were married and made their lives in the Allentown area. Jill enjoyed a varied career culminating in 35 years at Getting To Know You, a national welcoming company. During that time she did work for them in a variety of areas including PR, marketing, advanced sales and sales training. Unfortunately, Jill's life was cut short by cancer. During her lifetime she talked about wanting to do something that would remain in perpetuity to support arts or education.

“Jill felt strongly about Cedar Crest College because of the value of her education and the College's commitment to success as an all-women's college.”

Jill felt strongly about Cedar Crest College because of the value of her education and the College's commitment to success as an all-women's college. When she got sick, there was no time to discuss how she would like to be remembered. So Hank asked himself what Jill would want her legacy to be. The choice was obvious to him—she would want a scholarship to help future generations of Cedar Crest women pursue their career goals. Hank created the Jill Stewart Narrow Endowed Scholarship for Communications and fully funded it so that there would be an immediate impact on communication students.

Hank said, “Jill would be proud to know that a worthy Cedar Crest College student will benefit from this small but important contribution every year.”

Cedar Crest College is grateful to Hank for this wonderful gift in memory of his lovely wife.



Pictured (L to R): Stephanie Woodruff, DNP, MSN, CRNA; Helen Buchen '59; Chris Elion and Kelley Flanelly, Nurse Anesthesia Program Class of 2021.



FEATURED ALUMNA: HELEN BUCHEN '59

STORY BY ELAINE BURGESS, NIECE OF HELEN BUCHEN

A nurse anesthetist was one of the earliest careers I heard of, not because I needed surgery, but because my Aunt Helen (Helen Buchen) was one. She spoke glowingly about her work, the joy of caring for her patients with different types of conditions using different types of equipment, and the excitement of working in a hospital setting. Each day was different and rewarding, yet often challenging for her; it was as she often said “an illustrious career.” And the rest of the family was truly proud of her accomplishment.

Helen Buchen was born in 1927 in the home where she still resides, a self-described “country girl.” For the first eight grades she walked to the township one-room schoolhouse and later attended Emmaus High School. Helen was an excellent student, and had a desire from early on to help others and to learn. Following graduation from high school in 1945, Helen went “in training”, enrolling in the nursing program at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. Then as now the demand for nurses was great. Students accepted for the program worked, studied, and lived at the hospital under the strict supervision and high standards of the nuns in charge. An admission requirement was a wristwatch with a second hand. After three years Helen obtained her RN degree in 1948. During her senior year Helen was approached by Sister Benosa, an anesthesia instructor, who indicated that she would like Helen in her program. Helen still recalls with trepidation the day when Sister Benosa asked her to come to her office. Sister Benosa had recognized Helen’s attention to detail and high professional and academic standards during her years at Sacred Heart,

qualities needed by nurse anesthetists. She was definitely correct in her assessment of a career choice for Helen. Helen completed the one year program at Sacred Heart in 1949 and continued to work as a nurse anesthetist for another 45 years.

Helen began her career at Sacred Heart Hospital following her graduation, but anesthesia also took her to various other locations, among them—Allentown General Hospital, Mercy Hospital Hospital in Wilkes Barre, Jeanes Hospital in Fox Chase and Women’s Medical College in Philadelphia. She returned to Allentown General later as an instructor and director of nursing anesthesia. She also wrote exam questions for the national certification exams. She was also in the operating room at the birth of several of her nieces and nephews. A highlight of her career was assisting at the first open heart surgery performed in Allentown. Helen later worked at the Osteopathic Hospital until her retirement in 1994.

Ever desirous of more education, Helen enrolled in Cedar Crest College in 1955. She graduated in 1959 with a B.A. in biology. She commented that she enjoyed the humanities courses, as well as the science courses, that her B.A. studies included. Helen completed her degree as a full-time commuting student in four years, while also working part time in anesthesia. One of my earliest memories was attending her graduation in 1959 and running to walk alongside of her.

Growing up with the familiarity of the occupation of nurse anesthetist, I never realized what a trailblazer she was. Helen was inspiring and enthusiastic and whenever she mentioned her work, she did so with pride. It was evident from her many memories and stories, that she held herself to the highest standards. She was kind, but also courageous on behalf of patient care, never hesitating to address procedures or practices that she felt were incorrect. Her visit to Cedar Crest College’s anesthesia department in June was a real highlight. We are grateful to all who took the time to meet with her that day and show her the beautiful, state-of-the-art facility. When asked about the greatest differences between now and then, Helen remarked on the technology and equipment. Helen learned and practiced anesthesia in the pre-computer era. Also, nursing was not an occupation for males in her student years. Helen’s advice to others in the field is to have a sense of humor and to enjoy one’s profession—good advice for everyone in every profession.



GOOD NEWS! The School of Nursing has been granted full accreditation for the Master’s Degree Program in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program!

www.cedarcrest.edu/nursing



NEWS & UPDATES

NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ALUMNAE TOUR

In her inaugural year as president, Dr. Elizabeth Meade journeyed across the United States to bring news from the College to alumnae in 32 cities across the country. The primary regions included central Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, the Lehigh Valley, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New England, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and the West Coast. Alumnae representing a wide variety of decades attended these events, ranging in class years from 1956 to 2018. In total, President Meade and the Institutional Advancement staff saw over 250 people on the tour. Many alumnae at the events had not been back to campus since their graduation. It was important to President Meade that these events made them feel like they were back on campus. The staff brought photos from the many recent campus renovations and the Sophomore Expedition to share the complete Cedar Crest experience with everyone in attendance.

STUDENTS AT CEDAR CREST

The student population at Cedar Crest is ever-changing and the College is dedicated to ensuring that the campus continues to grow to meet the needs of these students, while also preserving the College's history. Today's student body include 773 traditional undergraduates, 451 adult undergraduates, and 273 graduate students. Among those students, 10 percent are international, 36 percent are students of color, and 38 percent are first-generation college students. Despite a national trend of a decreasing number of high school graduates, Cedar Crest has seen a 7.7 percent growth in its undergraduate population over the last two years, a feat that, according to the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, has only been achieved by 18 percent of colleges in the state in the last three years.

The College has embraced a student-centered approach that has resulted in increased success rates for all students at Cedar Crest. The retention rate of first-year students has increased from a low of 67 percent to a high of 82 percent, and the Class of 2017 saw 93 percent of its graduates



employed and/or in graduate school. To help students better prepare for life after college, the Career Planning Office established a Student Employment Center, which gives every student on campus the opportunity to have a campus job. It also requires them to attend regular, paid, training sessions, receive reviews by their supervisors

and provides the opportunity for promotions within their office of employment. This addition helps students prepare for jobs in their field of study and helps to offset their expenses while in college.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Today's top academic programs include nursing, business administration, biological sciences, psychology, criminal justice and forensic science, but the total offerings are expansive with 40 total undergraduate majors and 29 minors, 18 certificate programs, and 8 graduate degrees. The College's newest programs include two doctor of nursing practice (DNP) tracks, the first in nurse anesthesia (CRNA), which is the only one of its kind in the Lehigh Valley, and a nurse practitioner track (CRNP), along with a masters in integrated exercise science. A new Doctor of Occupational Therapy program will also begin in 2022, following a three-year accreditation process.

CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

Cedar Crest has recognized that the physical space in which students live, work, and learn is just as important as the programing that is offered and as a result has invested over \$18 million in campus renovations over the last four years. These improvements include a new nursing simulation suite, a new conference center in the Tompkins College Center, a Student Success Center in Cressman Library, the FalconPlex and turf field, renovations to the Allen House for the creation of the Center for Diversity and Global



SOPHOMORE EXPEDITION

President Meade believes “if we want students to change the world, they first need to see the world beyond our campus.” The Sophomore Expedition, a service-learning trip that includes coursework related to the destination country leading up to departure, ensures that every sophomore student in good academic standing has the opportunity to participate in this experience at no cost to them. The inaugural Sophomore Expedition trip took 118 students, faculty and staff to Rio de Janeiro in March 2018 and over 150 students, faculty and staff to Athens, Greece in March 2019. Over 180 students have already signed up for the Sophomore Expedition to London, England in March 2020.

Engagement, Steinbright Hall, the first floor of Moore Hall, Samuels Theatre, the Lees Hall bathrooms, and the commuter lounge, now called The Perch.

Residence hall renovations included a full update to Steinbright Hall with new bathrooms, new furniture and brighter lounges, and a renovated lobby in Moore Hall, along with suites, a student collaboration area, and a new patio.

With the new turf field, the College has seen a significant improvement in the success of its athletic teams. In 2018, the fall teams received 57 conference awards, compared to 8 in all of 2016/2017. The FalconPlex also allows for more community partnerships to be formed, as other organizations have been able to utilize the fields when the Falcons are not practicing.

The renovations to the Allen House created a space that gave the Center for Diversity and Global Engagement the opportunity to host 94 events in 2018, which brought 2,181 attendees together in the new space over the year.

Moving the Student Success Center to the newly renovated Cressman Library has resulted in an 11 percent increase in tutoring hours, a 261 percent increase in unique student visits, and a total visit increase of 103 percent.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The accomplishments of Cedar Crest are also being seen by the greater academic community. Cedar Crest has been named a Top Regional College and Best Value College by U.S. News and World Report every year since 2012 and a Best College for Veterans in 2015, 2016, and 2018. In 2018, Money Magazine also named Cedar Crest a Best College for Your Money.

The improvements that have been made to all aspects of Cedar Crest over the last year have been funded through generous gifts from donors and foundations, carefully budgeted dollars, and in-kind gifts. Today, the Cedar Crest College endowment is at just over \$34 million. It has increased nearly \$2.7 million over the last five years as a result of generous gifts and market growth. Priority funds and projects for the future include the Sophomore Expedition, renovations to Butz Hall, Scholarships, and a Faculty Education Fund, among other areas. Cedar Crest continues to grow in immense ways, but future renovations will be less visible, but equally as important, with projects like roof repairs and HVAC system updates.



Office of Institutional Advancement

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**THE 2019 ALUMNAE
QUESTIONNAIRE IS ENCLOSED!**

Please complete the questionnaire
for a chance to win a cash prize!
See survey for details or visit
www.cedarcrest.edu/feedback.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO
www.cedarcrest.edu/update



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Alumnae can also join our private
Facebook group by searching
"Cedar Crest College Alumnae."

