

CNR Diary - March 2022

40s – 60s

I have fond memories of outstanding professors including Dr. Joe Scully (Philosophy), Dr. Anna Sheedy (History; Western Civilization), and Mother Grace Monahan (English; Dante). Mother Thomas Aquinas O'Reilly was the dean at the time and became a lifelong friend. For many years, we worked together on the Alumnae Board. Our class was the "War Class" and while life on campus went on, there were the occasional black outs and rationed goods such as nylons. We always had to wear hats and gloves when we ventured off campus to go to Main Street aka "The Vill" to shop, go to the movies for 15 cents, or enjoy an ice cream soda at The Boston Spa. Those were happy times.

- **Mary Jane Kann Reddington SAS '45**

Just before I graduated from CNR in 1953, I went to see the chaplain to ask what he thought of the military life into which the Cold War was propelling my Air Force ROTC fiancé and me for what was supposed to be only the first three years of our marriage. Friends had described frequent temporary and permanent moves, along with separations and other conditions that made it hard on families. "Well," he said, stroking his chin as he carefully considered his words. "I certainly think you'll learn the meaning of pilgrimage." Thirty-two years and 21 homes later, we knew he was still right. Even retired and no longer nomads, we weren't "there" yet. There was still a journey ahead and work to do.

- **Joan McAndrews Brown, SAS '53**

I arrived on the CNR Campus, an unsophisticated 17-year-old girl from South Carolina, in 1950. As I have reminisced and counted my many blessings over the years, I know that CNR was the most beautiful, peaceful, joyous, and spiritual environment imaginable.

Not only did I make lifelong friends at CNR, but the education was excellent. It helped to prepare me for a sometimes challenging, wonderful future.

I also met my future husband, a Fordham student at the time. It was during the Freshman Dance. All the men's names and their heights were put in a bowl and women picked from it. I picked a guy who was 6'2" or so and a classmate picked a guy who was only 5'6". Since she was taller than me, I suggested we switch and 5 years later. Mr. 5'6" and I were married.

Thank you to Mercy College for rescuing the CNR students. I pray that Mercy will send their graduates out into the world not only prepared for the working world but also for their personal well-being, armed with a strong spirituality and critical thinking.

- **Margaret Slagsvol Flavia, SAS '54**

After graduation in 1955 and before we got married Mary Jane Tanahey, Eleanor Leary, me and another friend Marian all sailed to Europe and stayed about four months touring. Wonderful experience. Sailed home from Gibraltar on what the sailors called a long sea. Cured me of cruises.

- **Barbara Lawrence Bridgers SAS '55**

Falling out of bed, putting on cap and gown, and singing at the 6:40am Mass with Mother Gerald, Beth Dowd, Toni Conforti, Winnie Bernard, Kathy Mylod, Mary Ruth Willmann, Mary Kelly Price, CiCi Stahl, Mary Dehn and Carol Horan, plus a few more!!

- **Elizabeth Mylod Wolf, SAS '56**

There are many memories that evoke happy thoughts: the friends, the feeling of community and connection with the past through rites and ceremonies. My favorites were the Christmas dinner and strawberry festival.

- **Marie-Louise Mauch Prainito SAS '57**

I remember asking Mother Emanuel in second year theology how do we know that God exists. She looked down at me through her thick glasses and replied calmly, "That question is covered in the third year."

I remember Jane Fonda was singing "Boots are made for walking. "I had a pair of ankle high leather boots and wore them stomping all over campus.

Young people today are amazed at how strictly CNR observed loco parentis. We had to fill out two cards on Wed evening and one envelope that was mailed to our parents saying we had a date. Dress for dinner; stay dressed on Sunday, and no sneakers unless it was gym class with Kathy LaVache. Somehow, we survived. If you French kissed on a date, confession was mandatory less you die and go to Hell. My, I was naive.

- **Genevieve Smith Jansen SAS '62**

So many wonderful and fun memories of Swimphony... with Miss Morrissey helping to perfect our strokes, our speed, and our water ballet talents! Love the class spirit it evoked... and will always remember walking to class from the pool with icicle hair all winter!

- **Jeri Kothe Quirk, SAS '65**

I recall ascending to the dining hall via that wonderful, curved staircase, wearing the stockings and skirts that transformed us to proper young women. After dinner? Descending that staircase, down past the main entrance, to the smoker, where we indulged our raucous young selves. Appreciating our education, sure, but also eager to smoke cigarettes, bid bridge hands, and sing along with Edith Piaf's anthemic "M'Lord". Those *were* the days, my friends... I transferred junior year, but CNR remains close to my heart.

- **Jeanne Carbonara Sutton SAS '65**

When I first arrived at CNR I lived in a house (Marian Hall) because Ursula Hall was still under construction. On date nights our housemother, Mother Fidelis, would stay up and welcome us home, but if few were going out on a particular night, we would stay in one of the large dorms. On a Saturday night I was given a room in Maura Hall. The routine, unfamiliar to me, was to check in at the front desk. The next day I was summoned by Mother Ancilla, the Dean of Students, who informed me that there was no record of when I returned to campus. Realizing my mistake, I profusely apologized and assumed that would be the end of it. Instead, I lost all my evening permissions for three months!

- **Mary Supple Dailey, SAS '66**

70s – 90s

I was walking back to Brescia from the dining room and Dr. Denne had just arrived in a ...Volkswagen Beetle. "This I gotta see," I told myself and paused to watch him extricate himself. Some of you may recall he was very tall...6'4" or 6'5" at least. It was sort of like a stick insect slowly unfolding and emerging from a cocoon. Too bad he didn't have long wings that helped him fly away...

- **Elizabeth Ocskay SAS '72**

I was a French student with Sr. Marie H  l  ne Messenger. I remember the class sessions; it was always interesting and the students much younger than I were very nice. One day after class all of us had juice and home-made cookies I had brought for the occasion. The girls practiced their French with their professor and I, an excellent conversation.

Prior to taking French I studied to complete my undergraduate classes. I loved the philosophy class. The first class I took was an American History class. In those days, if you were not American-born you had to take a class in American History. It was the best class and I dearly wish CNR had continued requiring this class for all students not born here. We had to choose a book and write a substantial paper on it. I chose "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. To this day I still remember with joy my reading and writing about the book. Yes, my short years at CNR were not to be forgotten.

- **Francoise Grab SNR '74**

I always remember, even as a little child, my mom and her friends would always speak of their days together at "The College," never referring to it as anything else. She was a day student who took a city bus to school each day. She graduated in 1930, completing her degree in just 3 1/2 years. I graduated from the Graduate School, with a concentration in Remedial Reading in 1976. I, too, had graduated from "The College." We seemed to have come full circle.

- **Mary Elizabeth Kelly Egan GS '75**



Twenty years ago, I visited Seattle with my daughter during her middle school spring break. As I stepped out of a cab, I recognized a familiar face walking by. "Jay Conroy?" I asked loudly. She turned around looking exactly as she had in 1973. Now Janice Conroy Albert, SAS '73, she had become an attorney. She invited my daughter and me to dinner and regaled Rachel with stories of her Mom's unexpectedly very short haircut from a student at the Vidal Sassoon salon in Manhattan. If you recall, the haircut was free, but the style was at the discretion of the future stylist. I was delighted to run into Jay whom I had remembered with fondness.

- **Anne-Marie Nolin, SAS '75**

I remember a group of students who took modern and interpretive dance classes on campus. They and others including me would process in dance form into Mass and we would "dance before the Lord" like David did. Those who were more proficient would do more. It was wonderful to have such diversity, as to bring out the different gifts God gave to each student. The campus had a tremendous variety of courses, talents, and discussions to choose from. Thank you ALL "for the memories."

- **Antoinette Sorbello SN '81**

I transferred to the College of Rochelle as a junior and initially found it difficult to assimilate. As the year went on, I met a group of fabulous women who bid for a senior house and needed one more housemate. That was the beginning of so many of my favorite memories in Saint Anne's house with The God Squad. I was so grateful to be living with 10 other amazing women who all supported each other. We had incredible times, constantly answering the pay phone for each other, planning a "sorority" party, and always having someone to go with to dinner or chapel. We worked hard, loved, and laughed and I will always consider myself lucky to have landed where I did at CNR.

- **Janet Sheridan Horvath SAS '84**

Doing the electric slide...everyone else got off the dance floor and just watched...this was later written about in the newsletter highlighting the fun of the evening. It was a good time.

- **Viola 'Vicky' Haizlip Glaze SN '91**

Ann Frost was an incredible mentor for me. She helped gain confidence in my ability to tackle many things and I am very grateful.

- **Susan Clark Amlicke SN '93**

I remember most lightening my full load of graduate school classes (for MS, Studio Art) when playing "Frisbee-Football" with fellow graduate students (men and women) on the campus lawn during Autumn or Spring (and I still have a photograph someone took of us playing fun Frisbee!)

Three other memories: First, having a solo art show ("Light in Nature") in one of the campus buildings, with videotaped interview, and many supportive written comments both by other students and teachers in a book meant a lot to me. Also, the opportunity to show both a portrait and a larger painted scene for the school play, "Arsenic and Old Lace," was especially flattering in New York too! Finally, learning how to paint still-life on their programs "Kid-Pics" and "Photo-Shop" with patient teaching conquered my "Computer-Phobia."

- **Paul Zapatka, GS '98**

2000s – Present

Campus Ministry had a 9/11 10th Anniversary Memorial Service on the lawn by Maura Ballroom. Although it was a small group, our hearts were full of memories of that day. We prayed, we cried, and we shared our hearts. We had tied yellow bows to the tree limbs, lit candles, and shared our stories. At the time, I believe we lost 18 members of the CNR family across our campuses. They will forever be in our hearts. Thank you to Dr. Helen Wolf, Campus Ministry Director, for always organizing opportunities for the community to gather and fellowship, across all faith traditions!

- Pearl Hayes Sullivan SNR '03, GS '15

I graduated from The School of New Resources, Cardinal O' Connor Campus in 2004, with a liberal arts degree in communications. The experience was fascinating. I advanced my professional career, completed a master's degree, and retired as a finance auditor from The New York City Department of Homeless Services. My most memorable experience was receiving my degree and walking across the stage at Radio City Music Hall.

- Michelle Lewis, SNR '04

One day I walked into the Co-op City campus. Next, I was filling out an application. Next, I was sitting in a class. Weeks later I wanted to quit. I spoke to Tania Quinn, a campus leader, and she said, "No you are staying." I stayed for a few years and graduated with distinction at which time I received an increased salary. I even went on to Mercy College and received my master's with distinction! Thanks to God and thanks to Tania Quinn. I will never forget her. What wonderful people I met there and am still connected with!

- Linda Collins, SNR '06

I remember that I was in a psychology class, and I noticed that several people who had been in the class were not there. So, I asked the professor, "Sir, I don't understand why the rest of the students in the class are not here and we all studied together." He replied, "Ms. Sweringen, you do not have to be here, you have successfully completed the requirements for graduation, and you can leave!" (The other students had been told they had completed all the graduation requirements and did not have to keep coming to the class. I had not gotten the notice). I said to him, "Sir, did you just say that I do not have to be here, and I can leave?" He said, "Yes." I replied, "I'm free, thank God! I'm free." I wished everyone the best and made my departure! I celebrated with a special dinner.

- La Vida Sweringen SNR '10

CNR was a place of warmth and great memories. I met my best friend of over 20 years in my Ways of Knowing class! We've been the best of friends ever since and I love her dearly!

- **Lashante Briscoe, SNR '15**

When I did a commercial for CNR in 2015, it was an amazing feeling. My friends were able to see me on TV representing a school I truly loved.

- **Kevin Williams SNR '15**