

CNR Legacy Council Update

The last two Legacy Council meetings of this (school) year were held on March 21st and May 9th.

The group continues to expand with new members. This is a reminder that all CNR alumni from any of the four schools are invited to attend our meetings (for more information, please contact Tara Alfano at talfano1@mercy.edu).

The following are some highlights reported by Bernadette Wade SAS '80, Chief Advancement Officer for Institutional Advancement, and Tara Alfano SAS '02, GS '04, Director of Development – CNR, at the past two meetings:

- There have been many opportunities to spend time with Dr. Susan Parish, incoming President of Mercy College. Dr. Parish embodies passion, and her values align to those of President Hall. Dr. Parrish has also been very interested in learning about CNR, its history, where we're going and what we can do for the future.
- As of August, Mercy College will become Mercy University.
- An announcement is pending that Mercy has moved forward with plans to open a School of Nursing, which will become the sixth school at Mercy College (previously the nursing program fell under the School of Health and Natural Sciences). Dr. Kenya Beard, currently the associate provost at Chamberlain University, will become the inaugural Dean for the School of Nursing.
- Mercy is committed to increasing its presence in the Bronx and has signed a new lease for 10 years at the current location.
- The sculpture dedication event that was originally scheduled for April 17, has been postponed and will be held sometime in the fall. In recognition of Mercy College's designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution, a sculpture by internationally recognized artist Martín Rubio is being presented to the College. Rubio has a foundation that is connected to the "Nuyorican" movement in the 1970's which brought recognition to Puerto Rico's history, culture, and influences. This gift came about as a result of a connection with CNR alumna, Laudelina Martinez, CNR SAS '63.
- Indra Nooyi, former chairman and CEO of PepsiCo and CNR honorary degree recipient, delivered a keynote address at Mercy's Dobbs Ferry campus May 1 about breaking down barriers, diversity, inclusion and motherhood in the workforce. The 250 attendees included CNR and Mercy alumni, Mercy students and faculty/staff, members of Mercy's Board of Trustees and several community partners.
- The Mercy College Trustees' Dinner took place May 4 at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. The dinner honored outgoing Mercy President Tim and Lee Hall, Marcelle Willock SAS '58 posthumously, and Jadelyn Alers, a May 2023 graduate of Mercy. More than \$400,000 was raised to support student scholarships awarded from the Trustees' Scholarship Fund and the CNR Legacy Scholarship Fund.

- Mercy's five schools will hold individual commencements on May 16, 17, and 18 with two ceremonies on both May 16 and 17 and one on May 18. Several honorary degrees will be conferred.

Chairs of the Communications/Newsletter, Service and Community Outreach, Networking and Career Development, Book Club Committees, and Programs committees reported the following:

- Communications – Annalinda Ragazzo SAS '74 reported that work is under way on the summer newsletter issue which will be distributed in July. The March issue of the CNR Alumni Legacy e- Newsletter had one of our highest open rates at 32%. A commemorative year for Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly will begin with the July issue. Each issue will feature an article on some aspect of Sr. Dorothy's memorable career. We will also continue with the CNR Alumni Spotlight and CNR Connections. Ideas for future editions of the newsletter are welcomed.
- Service/Community Outreach – Pat Mastellon SAS '65 reported that, for the spring term the Mav Market served 2,057 individuals, of whom 642 are pantry members. While the market is closed during the summer, it operates on an emergency food request system. There is still much need among the Mercy community and alumni are encouraged to continue in their generosity.

General Mav Market Donation: <https://alumni.mercy.edu/mercymavmarket>

Amazon Wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/305E3L2KQQD5V?ref =wl_share

- Networking/Career Development – Rosa Napoleone SAS '75 cited some recent examples of how networking opportunities have led to CNR alumni working together with Mercy. Sr. Jeannie Humphries, OSU, SAS '93, principal at the John Cardinal O'Connor School in Irvington, is developing a partnership with Mercy's Department of Education to offer professional development and fieldwork to Mercy students. Rose Salem-Tilford SNR '93 participated as a speaker in Mercy College's Student-prenuer conference/business plan competition, where students present their businesses to a group of panel judges. Rose recently became involved with the CNR Legacy Council and attended an event held during Women's History Month at which she connected with Lloyd Gibson, the Dean of Mercy's School of Business, who then invited her to take part in this event.

- Book Club –Tara Alfano mentioned that a joint Mercy/CNR email would be sent to all book club members May 10 informing them that the online book club would be ending.
 - Reunion – Marlene Tutera SAS '71 and Tara Alfano - Reunion for CNR classes ending in 3's and 8's will be held Friday, June 9th and Saturday, June 10th. Events include a BBQ at Moller House on Friday evening, a celebration lunch on Saturday, and a dinner on Saturday evening. In addition, the second installment of the Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly Lifelong Enrichment Series will be held Saturday morning. Alumni from both CNR and Mercy College, as well as the CNR and Mercy communities-at-large, are invited to attend. Panelists CNR alumni Pat Keegan Abels SAS '73, Pearl Sullivan SNR '03, GS '15, Liliana Santizo SNR '12, and Renee Blackwell SAS '95 will have a conversation based on the topic, "Navigating your Path in a World that is Ever Changing." The panelists will discuss how, at various points in time, every individual has been challenged to reinvent themselves and their way of life, whether that means finding a healthy work/life balance, a career that provides value, or fulfillment in retirement.
- Rosa Napoleone SAS '75
CNR Alumni Communications Committee

The next round of Legacy Council meetings will be held starting in the fall; dates are TBD.