

CNR Legacy Council Update

CNR Legacy Co-Lead Rosa Napoleone welcomed everyone to the January 10th meeting, including special guest Dr. Susan Parish, the new President of Mercy University. The opening prayer was offered by Pearl Sullivan SNR '03, GS '15.

Following the prayer, CNR Legacy Co-Lead Marlene Tutera introduced President Parish and then turned the meeting over to her so she could directly address the Legacy Council members in attendance. Marlene was thanked for her kindness and support as a member of the Mercy Board of Trustees, and for providing Dr. Parish with an understanding of the role CNR now plays at Mercy.

The first and most important message President Parish wanted to convey was that she is fully committed to continuing Tim Hall's pledge to ensure that CNR's Legacy is preserved. She mentioned the similarity in missions to service that both CNR and Mercy share.

President Parish then discussed the four priorities that she has set forth for Mercy:

- Priority 1 is to create an exceptional student experience for every student at every moment throughout the student's journey, whether it be in the classroom, the dining halls, the dorms, etc.
- Priority 2 is aimed at doubling the on-time graduation rate over the next four years. Although Mercy is on target with peer institutions in terms of the number of students that graduate on time, a more rigorous approach is required to ensure students graduate on time, thereby minimizing the amount of student debt that is carried throughout their lifetimes.
- Priority 3 seeks to create an environment of excellence in the workplace for all Mercy employees, one that honors, values, and respects all employees regardless of their role.
- Priority 4 is centered on ensuring Mercy's financial sustainability going forward.

The meeting was then opened up for Q&A with President Parish. The dialogue that followed was chiefly centered around what the CNR Legacy Council could be doing to support Mercy. Apart from fulfilling the need for scholarship funding by virtue of their own donations, through their many connections CNR alums can also assist Mercy in finding other sources of financial support, e.g., patrons, foundations, etc. Additionally, support can be provided to students by alumni in practical areas such as how to study effectively, how to apply for jobs, how to set up their LinkedIn profiles, serve as a resource to provide or hire students for internships, etc.

President Parish mentioned that Bernadette Wade has been charged with developing a mentoring program. Bernadette was reminded to keep the Networking/Career Development committee in mind for anything they could do to assist in this effort.

Bernadette Wade SAS '80 and Chief Advancement Officer for Mercy University updated the group:

- Bernadette announced that this year's CNR Legacy Award at the Trustees' Dinner will be presented to Pat Keegan Abels SAS '73, who Bernadette said exemplifies the CNR Legacy. The dinner will be held on Thursday, May 2 at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle.
- Though it has been mentioned before, Bernadette once again wanted to update everyone on the launch for the new School of Nursing, which is being led by Dean Kenya Beard.
- There is a search underway for a new dean for the School of Business as former Dean Lloyd Gibson stepped down in December.

Tara Alfano, SAS '02, GS'04 and Director of Development – CNR, provided some updates:

- A joint holiday party gathering for the CNR/Mercy alumni councils was held on December 16th at the Moller House with approximately 25 attendees.
- On Saturday, January 20th from 11am - 1pm there will be a gathering in Connecticut for CNR/Mercy alumni, graciously hosted by Therese FitzMaurice SAS '83.
- The Alumni of Distinction awards will be taking place on Friday, February 9th at 6pm in the Mercy University Rotunda in Dobbs Ferry, NY. This year's award recipients are Rosalie Crabbe SAS '72, Retired Manager of Accessible Programs and Industry Affairs; Margaret Reese Williamson SAS '75, Retired School Principal; Michael Radosta SN '05, Vice President of Behavioral Health Nursing & Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer for Behavioral Health at New York- Presbyterian; and Elissa Carmona SNR '05, Air Force Veteran, Singer/ Songwriter & Community Organizer. Elissa and her band, the Morrisania Band Project, will provide the entertainment for the event.
- On Saturday, March 9th from 1-3pm an alumni gathering graciously hosted by Terry Davis SAS '73 will take place in Malibu, California.
- On Saturday, April 20th we will be hosting an early afternoon gathering for the classes of SAS 1972 and 1973 at the Moller House.
- On Wednesday, May 15th from 6-8pm we will be hosting a joint CNR/Mercy Nursing alumni event.

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

- **Communications – Annalinda Ragazzo SAS '74**

A Newsletter Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th to plan the March issue. The December issue of the newsletter received a 30% open rate, which is very good. In addition to the e-version of the newsletter, 300 hard copy newsletters were mailed to a group of alumni without email addresses. Annalinda welcomes feedback on how the newsletter can improve, what can be added, and what can be done to continue to make this a meaningful publication that continues to support a very special and finite group.

- **Service/Community Outreach – Pat Mastellon SAS '65**

During the Fall 2023 term, food was provided to over 536 Mav Market members which, when taken families into consideration, means that over 2000 individuals were serviced. The current numbers indicate a substantial increase in usage over the recent past. There has been a specific increase in demand for refrigerated items and household items on the Dobbs Ferry campus. Assistance is also being given to students in the form of helping them to apply for SNAP and other government benefit opportunities.

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

Amazon Wishlist:

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

Physical items such as non-perishable food or personal care products can also be delivered to any of the following Mercy Campus locations. Prior to dropping off items to the campuses, please email Julie Cruickshank at mavmarket@mercy.edu, so she can let you know when the Market will be open for donations, record your donation, and let her staff know that you will be arriving.

Market Locations:

Westchester Campus: 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 - Main Hall, Room 115

Bronx Campus: 1200 Waters Pl, Bronx, NY 10461 - Room 2221

Manhattan Campus: 47 W 34th St, New York, NY 10001 - Room 329

- **Networking/Career Development – Rosa Napoleone SAS '75**

On May 15th there will be a joint CNR/Mercy Nursing School alumni event. More information will follow as it gets closer to the event.

Noel Melliza is working with Student Life to coordinate the second Lunch and Learn to take place on the Manhattan Campus on February 20th. The first Lunch and Learn was held October 2023 on the Bronx Campus. Noel will be reaching out to alumni that have experience in the areas of corporate finance, international relations, criminal justice, psychology, and marketing analytics. If anyone on the Council has any of these skill sets and is interested in participating, please reach out to Tara Alfano.

- **Programs/Lifelong Learning– Marlene Tutera SAS '71**

Two sessions are held each year for the Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly Lifelong Enrichment Series. These sessions take place in October and June during the Reunion weekend. Sister Mary Virginia Orna, known for her expertise in the chemistry of color, will be the speaker for the June 2024 session.

- **Reunion – Marlene Tutera SAS '71 and Tara Alfano SAS '02, GS '04**

The 2024 Reunion will be held during the second week of June, which is a week later than has normally taken place in the past:

June 14th

BBQ - Location TBD (combined with Mercy Alumni)

June 15th

Morning - Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly Lifelong Enrichment Series (open to all)

Afternoon - Champagne Brunch (CNR alumni only)

Individual class gatherings to follow brunch

Evening – Dinner for 50th Reunion Class at the Moller House

The next two Legacy Council meetings will be held on March 13th, and May 8th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.