

CNR Legacy Council Updates

The Serviam Endowed Scholarship Fund was the focus of CNR Legacy Council meetings held January 8 and March 5.

The Scholarship Fund was launched in September 2024, with a first-year goal to raise \$100,000 by June 30, 2025, (the end of Mercy's fiscal year) and \$1 million in seven to 10 years. As of March 1, CNR alums had contributed more than \$109,000.

Because the first year's goal was exceeded in the first four months of the campaign, the Steering Committee accelerated the goal of raising \$1 million in seven years.

At the March 5 Legacy Council meeting, Steering Committee Co-Chairs Nancy Harkins, SAS '75 and Kathy McGrath, SAS '72 reported on fund-raising strategies for the late winter and spring. Steering Committee and other Legacy Council members will ask alums who have already contributed to reach out, particularly through social media, to classmates and other friends to give. They also will contact alums who have given to CNR Legacy or Mercy accounts in the last five years but not yet to the Serviam Scholarship Fund.

Other topics discussed at the Legacy Council meetings:

At the January 8 meeting, Bernadette Wade, SAS '80, Mercy's Vice President for Institutional Advancement, reported that 2025 was off to a great start. Mercy received a record large gift, which helped the Institutional Advancement Office meet its goal for the year of \$4 million. Physical improvements planned for the Dobbs Ferry campus include construction of a field house and renovations to Mercy's Main Hall so that the Hudson River will be visible for those entering the building.

On the academic side, Bernadette said the liberal arts core curriculum has been revamped, with slightly fewer required core courses, so that students may take more courses relevant to their majors.

Also at the Jan. 8 meeting, the Communications Committee which publishes the CNR Legacy newsletter three times a year, asked for feedback from Legacy Council members. Among the suggestions were trying to be more representative of all four CNR schools, by possibly including links to podcasts of industry leaders in business fields; reviewing the format of the newsletter and including an article on how retirement can lead to new careers or transitions. Serviam will be the theme of all 2025 issues of the newsletter.

At the March 5 meeting, Tara Alfano, Director of Development CNR, provided details about the Mercy University Trustees' Scholarship Gala on Wednesday, April 9. Mary. E. Sommer, SAS '71 will receive the CNR Legacy Award.

Tara also discussed plans for the CNR/Mercy Nursing Reunion on Wednesday, May 7 and the CNR Reunion Weekend, June 6-7, for the classes ending in 0's and 5's.

Featured at the May 7 Nursing Reunion on Mercy's Dobbs Ferry campus will be Sandra Lindsay, Vice President Public Health Advocacy, Northwell Health. She will sign copies of her book, "First in Line: How COVID-19 Placed Me on the Frontline of a Health Care Crisis."

On Saturday morning, June 7, Sister Mary Virginia Orna will be the speaker for the Dorothy Ann Kelly O.S.U. Lifelong Enrichment Series. A long-time CNR chemistry professor and crossword puzzle author, her topic will be "Across and Down and All Around: Confessions of a Peripatetic Nun."

The prior evening, Friday, June 6, outstanding graduates of CNR and Mercy will be honored at the Alumni Awards of Distinction dinner. These reunion weekend events will take place on Mercy's Dobbs Ferry campus.

At the March 5 meeting, a report on the Mav Market from Pat Ahearn Mastellon, SAS' 65 was presented. The Mav Market, a food pantry on all three campuses, had 558 student visits in the fall 2024 term. A total of 4,432 pounds of food were distributed. Pat's report quoted Julie Crikshank, Basic Needs Manager at Mercy, as saying the spring term already has seen a huge increase in students unable to afford groceries.

Pat asked that in the spirit of *Serviam*, CNR alums continue to respond to Mav Market needs. To donate:

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

Amazon Wishlist:

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

The March 5 meeting ended after a brief discussion of Mercy officials to invite as guest speakers for future meetings. The final Legacy Council meeting of the academic year will take place Wednesday, May 14.