

# Collegium News

Spring 2022

www.collegium.org

## Member Institutions

Assumption University  
 Benedictine University  
 Boston College  
 Chaminade University  
 College of Saint Benedict  
 College of Saint Scholastica  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 DePaul University  
 DeSales University  
 Dominican University  
 Duquesne University  
 Fairfield University  
 Fordham University  
 Georgetown University  
 Gonzaga University  
 Iona College  
 John Carroll University  
 King's College, Pennsylvania  
 King's University College, Ontario  
 La Salle University  
 Le Moyne College  
 Lewis University  
 Loras College  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Loyola University Maryland  
 Manhattan College  
 Marquette University  
 Notre Dame de Namur University  
 Notre Dame of Maryland University  
 Regis University  
 Rockhurst University  
 Saint Catherine University  
 Saint Edward's University  
 Saint Francis University  
 Saint John's University, Minnesota  
 Saint Louis University  
 Saint Mary's College of California  
 Saint Mary's College, Indiana  
 Saint Mary's University, Minnesota  
 Saint Mary's University, Texas  
 Saint Michael's College  
 Saint Norbert College  
 Saint Thomas More College,  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Seattle University  
 Seton Hall University  
 Stonehill College  
 Thomas More University, Kentucky  
 University of Dayton  
 University of Detroit Mercy  
 University of the Incarnate Word  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of Portland  
 University of Providence  
 University of Saint Francis  
 University of Saint Thomas,  
 Minnesota  
 University of San Diego  
 Ursuline College  
 Xavier University, Ohio

## Collegium to Returns in Person to Saint John's University



Among the many things we have to celebrate in 2022 is the return of Collegium in person! From June 10-17, 2022, we return to the much-loved St. John's University campus in Collegeville, Minnesota. Our 30th summer colloquy will also mark the transition from Tom's leadership to Karen's.

We're excited to see how many member schools have opted to send two faculty to participate. Now and in the coming years, we are reducing the cost to send an extra faculty member. We'll also be making our keynote talks available in real time to Collegium alums who would like to watch. Look for more details in coming weeks.

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# 2022 Collegium Visionary Award Presented to Christina Carlson G'00, F'17



*On April 8, Tom Landy awarded the 2022 Visionary Award to Christina Carlson (G'00, F'17), Associate Professor of English at Iona College. A gathering of Iona students, Collegium alumni/ae and other faculty were there to celebrate the occasion, offer commendations and enjoy a lovely reception. The Collegium Board voted in the fall to honor Carlson with the award based on a nomination from her colleague Kim Paffenroth (F'18). Her citation reads,*

Catholic higher education depends more than ever on the energy and vision of lay faculty who find imaginative ways to engage Catholic intellectual and spiritual traditions in the classroom and in their scholarship. Collegium, a consortium of more than 60 Catholic colleges and universities, was founded to encourage faculty in such creative endeavors.

The Collegium Visionary Award is meant to celebrate and support the leadership of Collegium alumni/ae in three areas: the advancement of Catholic mission on member campuses, scholarship that advances the Catholic intellectual tradition and brings other traditions into fruitful dialogue with it, and innovative teaching that brings aspects of the summer colloquy to life for students. Christina Carlson, a 2000 and 2017 Collegium alumna, brings Collegium's vision alive through the work that she does as a teacher, mentor, scholar and as leaven for the campus community.

Dr. Carlson's contributions in the classroom are manifold and push the traditional walls of the classroom outward. She teaches courses on Chaucer, medieval women, Celtic spirituality, and core courses in composition and literature before 1700; has served as a longtime member of the honors faculty; has developed the Study Abroad trip to the Isle of Iona in Scotland; has even expanded Iona's sustainability garden by adding a medieval kitchen garden.

She has been honored with the College's Senior Master Teacher Award, the Catherine McCabe Award for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, and the Br. Arthur A. Loftus Outstanding Student Research Award. One of her Iona colleagues summed up, "I am in awe of her classroom demeanor, which maximizes how much and how well she can communicate with students. She is equal parts challenging and nurturing in a way to which students enthusiastically respond."

Dr. Carlson has made outstanding contributions to enhance reflection on Catholic mission at Iona. She has moderated four Iona in Mission immersions, serves on the Council of the Iona Spirituality Center, and is the longtime Chair of the College's Faculty Steering Committee on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. In these endeavors, and in daily engagements as a colleague and mentor, she is described as an exemplar of the Christian practice of the virtues of hospitality and friendship.

With apologies to an accomplished medievalist for modernizing a Chaucer quote to make it more inclusive, "gladly would she learn, and gladly teach." Her colleagues and students affirm that she brings more than gladness to her pursuits at Iona College. She brings her whole heart, whether by making venerable texts sparkle in a classroom, or arousing the nascent analytical thinking and writing skills of her students, or planting a medieval garden, or tending the minds and spirits of colleagues from all across the Iona campus. Christina Carlson embodies Collegium's aspirations to ignite participants' spiritual imaginations and to use their intellectual gifts to bring hope and healing to our bruised, blessed world.

For her efforts to nourish her community and to serve as a catalyst across departments and roles at Iona College, Collegium is delighted to honor Christina Carlson with the 2022 Visionary Award.

# Catalyst Grants Return!

After a pandemic-related pause, Collegium is pleased to announce it will fund three “catalyst” grants—now up to \$5000 each for projects that advance Collegium’s mission on member campuses and in broader forums. The grants can fund course development, scholarship, and workshops that advance Catholic intellectual life and bring it into dialogue with other ways of knowing. Collegium alumni/ae at Collegium member institutions are eligible to apply for the grants, and other faculty may be included in proposals as co-applicants.

The board is extremely excited about this opportunity to advance Collegium’s work, and to support and enable great work from our alums all over the country.

The deadline for applications is September 15, 2022. Applications will be reviewed by a faculty committee appointed by the Director of Collegium. Applications and questions should be emailed to [admin@collegium.org](mailto:admin@collegium.org). Awards will be announced by October 15, 2022. The grants will be awarded for a twelve-month period beginning January 1, 2023, with a possible award period extension of an additional six months. At the close of the grant period, awardees will be responsible for submitting a report on the disbursement of funds and a two to three-page narrative report to share in *Collegium News* and the *ACCU Update*.

Applications should include:

1. Cover Sheet - the listing title of the project, primary contact person (s) and contact information, amount requested, and a 100-word abstract. The cover sheet must be signed by all applicants. It should also include the name and contact information of the sponsoring institution’s grant officer and their signature approving the grant request.

2. Narrative (in three parts) -

a) **Introduction:** Describe the project, most relevant desired outcomes, intended audience, and indicate how it builds on Collegium’s work. Include a brief rationale for the project.

b) **Project Plan:** detail the manner by which the proposal’s goals will be met, and identify the specific resources and plan needed to accomplish that.

c) **Qualifications:** state the qualifications of applicants to carry out the project, and those of other persons to be brought in to help with the project.

The Narrative should be clear, complete, and free from jargon. Depending on the nature and scope of the project, the Committee expects that the Narrative will be two to four double-spaced typed pages in length.

3. Budget - should contain an itemized list of proposed expenditures, such as stipend, travel, reference and teaching materials, fees, etc. These should be presented in the form of confirmed costs or documented cost estimates. In cases where participants request a stipend, such stipend may only be paid when the payee is off-contract (e.g., faculty on nine-month contracts may only be paid stipends for work done during the three summer months off-contract). Stipends shall be limited to \$125 per day for participants from the applicants’ institution. Honoraria for speakers may be proposed at a rate that seems appropriate for the speaker. Support from other sources should also be listed if a project’s total cost exceeds \$5000. Given the small size of the grants, the grantee’s institution must be willing to manage the grant without charging overhead.

## Research Funding Opportunity

The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC is funding fellowships to foster scholarship that actively contributes to the evolving Catholic tradition of scholarly thought and imagination. [More details are here.](#)

# Tom Landy Receives University of Portland's Christus Magister Award



University of Portland Interim President Herbert Medina (F'19) and Tom Landy, May 1, 2022.



▲ Tom Landy and then-New York Times columnist Peter Steinfelds at the first Collegium Summer Colloquy, 1993.

At the University of Portland's May 1, 2022 Commencement, Tom Landy was deeply honored [to receive](#) the University of Portland's Christus Magister Award from Interim President and Provost Herbert Medina (F'19) and Interim Dean Norah Martin (F'04, M '10, '16, B'17-22).

*As Tom passes the baton to Karen Eifler at the 30th anniversary summer colloquy, Karen suggested that he offer a few words to sum up some of the transitions of the last 30 years:*

There's certainly a great deal to be said about thirty years of helping to shape the conversation about how to enhance Catholic higher education. Thirty years ago was about imagining what could be, in a context of apprehension what was passing away. Today, the shift away from clerical and Religious leadership in higher education to lay leadership is far along. I have attended ACCU meetings for 30 years and can't help think of so many men and women Religious who I so admired, and lay presidents, who are retired or gone to God. Whatever there is to miss, today it's a joy to see who has taken over the lead, and how it has developed into a greater shared partnership between laity and founding communities.

Today I think less about what was, and more about what is to come. I am far less interested than before in declension narratives about Catholic higher education. I don't mean that there isn't reason to be purposeful and attentive to trends. I do mean that I'm

wary of thinking of any past era as a "golden age" for Catholic higher education. In an increasingly diverse American Catholic Church, "golden age" thinking can look like (or even really be) a kind of "white nostalgia" that is a disservice to Catholicism. The global Church that I study, burgeoning especially in the global south, brings us enormous vitality. We just need to learn how to pay attention to it. Whatever the great contributions of so many people I admire from the past or from today, I have to hope, too, that no young person looks at the last thirty years as any "golden age," but rather that s/he will come to imagine the future of Catholic higher education and think (here I have the Frank Sinatra song ringing in my ears), "the best is yet to come."

Most of my attention, as I think of those 30 years focuses on gratitude. I'll leave it to others to assess how Collegium succeeded and where we could have done more. For me, the greatest takeaway has been in terms of relationships: privileged conversations that I got to have with so many people, friendships that developed and endured, the knowledge that so many other significant friendships - even marriages - derived from Collegium, and the hope that God willing, this will continue to grow and prosper.

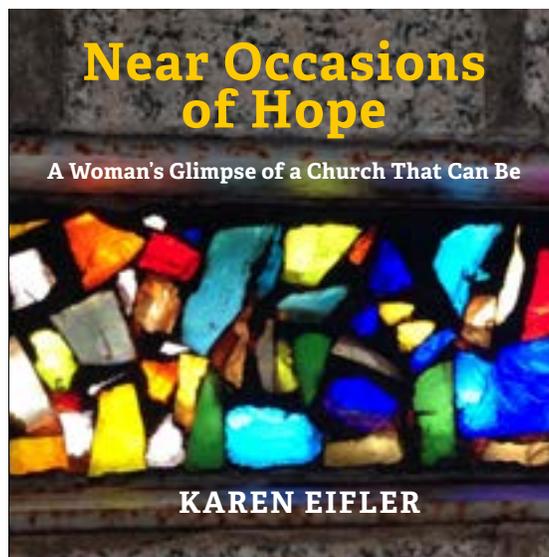
I heartily believe that the best is yet to come for Collegium. We have great, energetic leadership in Karen Eifler, in the Collegium Board and in Darlene Schniewind. It will be a joy to watch it continue to grow.



▲ Tom Landy at the 1996 summer colloquy.

# *Karen Eifler's newest book, Near Occasions of Hope*

Available Now



Just in time for the Easter season of hope and renewal, Director-elect Karen Eifler has recently launched a new collection of essays, [\*Near Occasions of Hope: A Woman's Glimpse of a Church That Can Be\*](#) into the world. The subtitle may be familiar to Collegium alums; indeed, many of these reflections about what keeps a reasonably intelligent, well-educated woman firmly committed to a Church that struggles at times to be true to its most deeply held principles are inspired by Eifler's two decades of participation in the life of Collegium.

## *Collegium Alumni Presidents*

As the Alumni news accounts indicate, two alumni, Francesco Cesareo and Brennan O'Donnell, have stepped down after long terms as president, at least three others – David Livingston (F'96) of Lewis University, Kevin Quinn (F'98) of Aquinas College and Vincent Rougeau (F'93) of the College of the Holy Cross are serving in presidential roles today at Catholic Colleges and Universities. Herbert Medina, (F'19) is currently serving in a dual role, as Interim President and as Provost at the University of Portland.

## *Nominate the Next Collegium Visionary Awardee*

As we savor the considerable accomplishments of the most recent recipient of the Collegium Visionary Award, Dr. Christina Carlson of Iona College, we also open the door to nominations for the 2023 award. The Collegium Visionary Award illuminates the work of Collegium alums in the many ways that Collegium encourages: leadership to promote Catholic mission on member campuses, scholarship to advance the Catholic intellectual tradition or to bring other traditions into fruitful dialogue with it, and innovative teaching to bring aspects of the summer colloquy to life for students. To nominate someone, please download and follow the guidelines [here](#). The deadline is September 15, 2022.

## Alumni News

**Francesco Cesaro** (F '93) recently announced that he will step down as President of Assumption University in June after serving in that capacity since 2007. We're grateful for many years of service and support, and for his years of service, since 2013 of the National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People, charged with monitoring implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for the Catholic Church in the United States.

On May 16 **Fr. Charlie Gordon, CSC** (Presenter, Spir Dir 2010-2016) will depart University of Portland after 12 years of teaching and service to become Vice-Chancellor of Notre Dame University-Bangladesh.

Manhattan College recently [announced](#) that having served 13 years as President of Manhattan College, **Brennan O'Donnell**, (F '94, Board '97-'01, M '00 and '03) will step down this July to begin a sabbatical in anticipation of returning to teaching and scholarship. Brennan has been a consistent and public advocate among presidents and other higher education leaders for Collegium and its work.

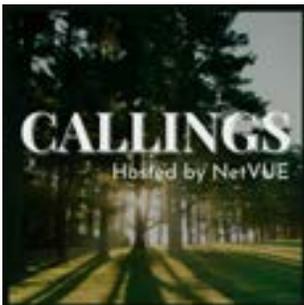
**Karsonya "Kaye" Wise Whitehead** (F'12, M'16, '18 and Visionary Award winner) recently received the [Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence](#) for her outstanding reporting on the impact racial reckoning has had in helping to close social/racial wealth gap for Black people in America and she was selected by The Daily Record as one of [Maryland's Top 100 Women of 2022](#).

## Collegium Videos

In case you missed any of our online talks, or want to see them again, a variety of Collegium videos are accessible at our [YouTube site](#).

The most recent additions are [Gerald Beyer's presentation on Just Universities](#) and [Cecilia González-Andrieu's talk, The Beauty of Education and Social Justice](#).

## A Marvelous Alumna-led Podcast



Erin VanLaningham (F'16) Professor of English at Loras College co-hosts a marvelous Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (Netvue) Callings podcast. This winter, she and co-host Hannah Schell interviewed can be accessed directly below. Check out the many great offerings she has developed.

[The Common Ground of Wonder - Callings](#)

Our guest, Tom Landy, is director of the McFarland Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. A longtime leader in higher education and vocation-related initiatives, Tom is founder of Coll...

[netvue.buzzsprout.com](http://netvue.buzzsprout.com)

# Collegium Board of Directors



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Executive Director: [Thomas M. Landy](#); Executive Director-Elect: [Karen E. Eifler](#).

## New Board Members

At the October, 2021 Board meeting, two new board members were elected for three year terms beginning July 1, 2021:



[Alicia Cordoba Tait](#),  
Beirne Director of the Center  
for Catholic Studies and  
Professor of Oboe  
Saint Mary's University, TX



[Justin D. Poché](#),  
Associate Professor of History  
College of the Holy Cross

## Welcome Darlene Schniewind

▼ Darlene Schniewind



Darlene Schniewind, Collegium's new program assistant, comes to Collegium from a myriad of life and work experiences that include professional acting, facilitating improvisation workshops for personal and professional development, to administrative roles in a variety of school settings. She is excited to work to support the mission of Collegium and the deepening experience for educators that the Colloquy offers. Darlene knows first-hand the powerful effect that a teacher can make on a student's life when anchored in a deeper vocational purpose. Darlene loves learning, improvisation, reading, dancing, health and fitness, stimulating conversation, board games, her family, her cat, and potatoes. Finding humor and playfulness wherever possible is golden to her. The office is lighter with her across the way! She can be reached at [admin@collegium.org](mailto:admin@collegium.org) or 503-943-7702.

Please join us in welcoming Darlene to Collegium!