



Campus News

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COMMENCEMENT 2003

Nearly 2,000 to graduate

Hundert to preside over first commencement as president

Approximately 2,000 students will graduate at CWRU's annual commencement convocation at 9:30 a.m. May 18 in the Veale Convocation and Recreation Center.

Geraldine Ferraro, the first female vice presidential candidate on a national party ticket and former U.S. congresswoman from New York, will be keynote speaker.

Edward M. Hundert presides over his first commencement as president of the University.

Undergraduates, graduates and professional school students will have their degrees conferred at this ceremony. Following the convocation, diplomas will be presented at separate ceremonies. Receptions also are held to honor new graduates and precede or follow each diploma ceremony.

Additionally, Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a CWRU undergraduate and medical school alumna, will deliver the keynote address at the CWRU School of Medicine's commencement ceremony at 11:30 a.m. in Severance Hall. Cleveland Municipal School District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett will give the keynote speech at the commencement ceremony of the CWRU School of Dentistry at 2 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Ave.

Five individuals, including Ferraro, will receive honorary degrees from the University at the ceremony. The other four are Franz Welser-Möst, who is completing his first year as music director of the Cleveland Orchestra, and nationally renowned professors and researchers Bruce Alberts, Richard M. Krause and Richard H. Thaler.

Commencement Schedule Sunday, May 18, 2003

UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

All graduates

Diploma Ceremony: Veale Center, 9:30 a.m.

This is a ticketed event.

Speaker: Geraldine Ferraro, former vice presidential candidate and U.S. Congresswoman

UNDERGRADUATES

Arts and sciences, engineering, management and nursing

Diploma Ceremony: Veale Center, 10:45 a.m.

Speaker: TBA

Reception: Musselman Quadrangle, following diploma ceremony (Rain site: Adelbert Gymnasium)

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Diploma Ceremony: Veale Center, 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dean Lenore A. Kola

Reception: Biomedical Research Building, following convocation

CWRU SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Diploma Ceremony: Church of the Covenant, 2 p.m.

Speaker: Barbara Byrd-Bennett, chief executive officer, Cleveland Municipal School District

Reception: Thwing Ballroom, following convocation

CWRU SCHOOL OF LAW

Diploma Ceremony: Severance Hall, 2 p.m.

Speaker: Michael G. Cherkasky, president and chief executive of Kroll Inc., CWRU Law '75

Reception: Law School, following convocation

MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

Diploma Ceremony: The Temple, noon.

Speaker: Steven Minter, executive director, The Cleveland Foundation

Reception: Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, immediately following diploma ceremony

CWRU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Diploma Ceremony: Severance Hall, 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Julie Gerberding, director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Reception: University Hospitals Atrium, following diploma ceremony

Web site: <http://mediswww.cwru.edu>

FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

Diploma Ceremony: The Temple, 2:30 p.m.

Speaker: Terry White, president and chief executive officer, MetroHealth Systems

Reception: The Temple Hall, 11:30 a.m.

WEATHERHEAD SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Diploma Ceremony: Veale Center, 4 p.m.

Speaker: Bart L. Wolstein, chairman and chief executive officer, Heritage Development Company

Reception: Peter B. Lewis Building

First female national party vice presidential candidate to speak

Geraldine A. Ferraro, the first female vice presidential candidate on a national party ticket, will be the keynote speaker for CWRU's 2003 commencement May 18.

Elected to Congress from New York in 1978, Ferraro served three terms in the House of Representatives, has served as United States ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission since 1993 and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

Ferraro is president of G&L Strategies, a management consulting firm that provides corporations and global organizations counsel on creating productive and safe workplace environments, improves relationships of corporations with government and

non-governmental organizations and develops initiatives designed to position corporations as responsible global citizens.

While in Congress, Ferraro was assigned to committees on public works, post office and civil service, budget and aging. She also spearheaded efforts to achieve passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and sponsored the Women's Economic Equity Act.

From 1996-1998, Ferraro was a co-host of Crossfire, a public affairs



Geraldine A. Ferraro

program, on CNN. She also was a partner in the CEO Perspective Group, a consulting firm that advises top executives. In 1994, she was appointed the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission by President Clinton and served in that position through 1996.

In addition to serving as the U.S. ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission from 1994 to 1996, Ferraro was named a public delegate in

February 1993 and was the alternate United States delegate to the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993. She also served as vice chair to the U.S. Delegation at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995.

Ferraro is a board member of the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is currently a political analyst for FOX News and a columnist for the *New York Times* Syndicate.

Before entering politics, Ferraro taught elementary school in the New York City Public School system for five years. During that time, she also put herself through

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Cleveland Orchestra director one of five individuals to receive honorary degrees

At CWRU's 2003 commencement, five individuals—including Geraldine A. Ferraro—will receive honorary degrees from the University.

Ferraro also will give the keynote address at the ceremony, which begins at 9:30 a.m. May 18 in the Veale Convocation and Recreation Center.

In addition to Ferraro, who will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, Franz Welser-Möst, who is completing his first year

as music director of the Cleveland Orchestra, will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, and nationally renowned professors and researchers Bruce Alberts, Richard M. Krause and Richard H. Thaler will receive honorary doctor of science degrees. Krause and Thaler also are CWRU alumni.

Bruce Alberts

Bruce Alberts is president of the National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council, the principal operating

unit of the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) and Engineering. He holds a bachelor's degree in biochemical sciences and a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University. He served on the faculty of Princeton University for 10 years before moving in 1976 to the University of California, San Francisco, where he served as professor and chair of the department of biochemistry and biophysics and as American Cancer Society Professor of Biochemistry. He was

named president of NAS in 1993. Alberts is a distinguished scientist, recognized for his work in biochemistry and molecular biology, particularly for his extensive molecular analyses of the protein complexes that allow chromosomes to be replicated. He also helped create City Science, a program for improving science teaching in San Francisco elementary schools.

Richard M. Krause

Two years after receiving a medical degree from CWRU,

Richard Krause was a member of a research team at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis that received the Albert Lasker Research Group Award for its contribution to the understanding of streptococcal infections and ways of preventing rheumatic heart disease. In that same year, 1954, he joined Rockefeller University, where he rose to the rank of professor, focusing his research on the substances in

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COMMENCEMENT 2003

Senior's 'penny a minute' drive aids Peruvian cellists

by Susan Griffith (sbg4)

Imagine wanting to play cello but lacking strings and sheet music. During an international meeting of the Suzuki Association in Lima, Peru, in January, Natasha Zielazinski—a CWRU graduating senior from Naperville, Ill.—witnessed children with a love for music but lacking the means to pursue their dreams.

"The Peruvian children I met were so motivated and excited to learn," Zielazinski said. "Unfortunately, many do not have the plentiful resources available to so many music students here in the United States."

The CWRU music major, who bubbles with enthusiasm for playing cello and teaching others how to play, challenged her 15 cello students,—who range in age from 3 to 46 years old—at the Cleveland Music School Settlement to pitch a penny into a jar for every minute they played. Abigail McHugh, a graduate student in cello at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and Zielazinski's friend, learned about the challenge and encouraged her students to join the effort.

When all pennies for the amount of time

that the bows met the strings were counted, Zielazinski had nearly \$1,500—or 15,000 minutes of practice. Goronok Music matched up to \$500 of the earnings leading to a total of nearly \$2,000.

"Both the students and parents were very excited. I kept receiving e-mails and calls from parents telling me how their children would volunteer to play a few more minutes," she said. "Even some 5-year-olds for whom the idea was still very abstract wanted to keep playing for a few more pennies."

While raising money for their "cello buddies" in Peru, her students found an



Natasha Zielazinski

external motivation to help them continue their daily practice. Zielazinski points out that at any age, but especially for young children, it is paramount that the students practice regularly not only to help pattern muscle action and develop technical skill but also to create an environment in which music has a strong presence.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in music during CWRU's commencement May 18, she will have the opportunity to deliver the music items to Peru this summer. CWRU honored her with a Pancoast Fellowship of \$3,400 for post-undergraduate study and travel. She will fly to Lima to work with the

Suzuki Association there.

Zielazinski started playing cello at the age of 11. For several years, ballet competed with the instrument for her time, but that changed when she began classes with Tanya Carey, the former president of the Suzuki Method Association of America. Zielazinski then gave up her ballet slippers to devote her time and energy to playing.

Since her first year at CWRU, she has taught a group of students from the Cleveland School of the Arts, the Fairmount Center for the Fine Arts and now the Cleveland Music School Settlement. She balanced her academic work, which included a minor in Spanish, with teaching, playing and studying with cellist Richard Aaron at CIM.

Zielazinski said she enjoys gathering her students for a group performance in a "cellobration," where everyone has a chance to listen to performers from CIM and then play on stage at CWRU's Harkness Chapel. "I would love to open a music school someday," she said. "Teaching is the most wonderful thing."

Student-athlete races to diploma

by Creg Jantz (cnj4)

When it comes time for CWRU senior Tim George to choose a home near his private practice or the hospital at which he is a resident, he might try to find a place around three to six miles away. Then he could run to work in anywhere from 16 to 35 minutes.

George, who will receive an undergraduate degree in biology from CWRU this month, is a very experienced runner—whether it is on an 8-kilometer course (five miles; best time 28:10) during cross-country or the 5,000- and 10,000-meter run (3.1 and 6.2 miles; best times 16:33 and 34:54) during indoor and outdoor track season over the last four years as a Spartan.

In covering all that ground he has collected the maximum of 12 letters, four each in three sports that take place in three different seasons (fall, winter and spring).

"It's very time consuming," George said. "I think one of the secrets was that by doing three sports I was in season all year around, so I never knew what it

was like to be out of season. That was an asset rather than a hindrance."

Tough on the grades? Apparently



Tim George

not. George has the highest cumulative grade point average (3.97) of any other CWRU senior student-athlete (58).

"It's a lot of work, but the big thing is just doing it a day at a time," George said. "Having a high grade point over the course of four years may seem like a huge thing, but if you look at it on a day-to-day basis, then it is just one test at a time."

Success in athletics and academics is not the only thing George has had during his tenure in University Circle. He recorded a hat trick by finding his life partner at CWRU in senior Liz Hanschen."

"I always new the possibility existed that I may find my wife here," George said. "A lot of people get married in college and a lot of people don't. I feel lucky that I did."

Hanschen, a native of Austin, Tex., is a four-year letter winner herself as a member of the women's basketball team, also is graduating this year with an engineering degree in systems and control. The couple has been engaged since last spring and will marry this June in Texas.

George, a Hudson, Ohio, native, will receive an undergraduate

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Engineering, psychology major credits faculty member for his many academic achievements

by Marci E. Hersh (meh10)

Elijah Petersen, a CWRU senior undergraduate student in the department of civil engineering and the department of psychology, credits his academic achievements to his ability to visualize success—and the CWRU faculty mentors who supported him.

Petersen has been awarded a prestigious \$27,000 graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation (NSF). He also received a highly competitive \$2,000 foundation fellowship from the Mortarboard National Honors Society, where he has served as president, to support his graduate education.

This year, Petersen will earn a bachelor's degree in the arts with honors and a bachelor's of science in engineering from CWRU.

"I'm very proud to be graduating from CWRU and honored to receive the NSF fellowship and the Mortarboard fellowship, which will help me make the transition from CWRU to graduate school next year," he said.

Petersen received the NSF fellowship in response to his outstanding academic record, which includes a 4.0 grade point average. This year, he also was named to the All-USA College Academic First Team sponsored by USA Today when the national newspaper honored outstanding college students from around the country.

He credits many of these achievements to what he calls the consistent and generous support of Aaron Jennings, professor in the department of civil engineering; Douglas Detterman, professor in the department of psychology;

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Senior Elijah Petersen and his mentor Aaron Jennings, professor of civil engineering

Weatherhead graduate, 80, earns 'life's ambition'

by Laura Martinez Massie (Imm25)

Leo Di Nuoscio's goals in life were simple but high-achieving. Yet when it took him longer to realize one of them, he never took his eye off the prize—even after nearly 55 years.

On May 18, the 80-year-old husband, father, grandfather, Akron-area native, Firestone Company retiree and decorated World War II veteran who stormed the beaches of Normandy with the Army's 44th Infantry Division in June 1944 will accomplish his life's ambition by receiving his master's of business administration degree in accounting from the Weatherhead School of Management.

Di Nuoscio turns 81 in June.

"My goals in high school were to obtain my bachelor's and a master's degree," said Di Nuoscio, who was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star after World War II. "It was always my life's ambition. I figured I'm 80 years old, and I hadn't achieved my goal yet, so I decided I was going to try and go for it."

In July 2002, with encouragement and inspiration from his wife, Pauline, the retired industrial engineer called Julia Grant, associate dean of graduate programs and associate professor of accounting at Weatherhead, to ask whether he could finish what he started in fall 1948 at what was then Western Reserve University (WRU). By the end of spring semester 1949, Di Nuoscio had completed all of his coursework except for his thesis, which was a requirement then.

"When I first called Weatherhead, I told Professor Grant that I hadn't achieved my goal yet," Di Nuoscio said. "I was only three credit hours short, and all I needed to do was take one new class and finish the work I began in 1948. Professor Grant, Professor (Paul) Gerhart and the rest of the Weatherhead School were very encouraging and supportive."

He entered Kent State University upon his honorable discharge from the Army in 1946 and received a bachelor's degree in industrial management in spring 1948. Goal No. 1 accomplished. His journey toward getting his master's degree was just beginning. He enrolled in New York University's MBA program but decided the newly established two-year program there—as well as New York City itself—weren't for him.

"I didn't want to stay in New York City for two years," he said. "So I decided to come back home and go to Western Reserve. The classes were actually held at Cleveland College in Public Square. It was a one-year program and much more suited to my needs at the time."

Although his coursework was finished and his thesis essentially complete, the faculty review of Di Nuoscio's thesis wasn't. Unfortunately, his faculty adviser left WRU to take a job in the private sector, and the final sections of Di Nuoscio's thesis—his conclusion and recommendations—were left unreviewed in the spring of 1949.

Incredibly, he kept the original 161-page thesis, "Wage Incentive Systems in the Rubber Industry," for 54 years. It was written from both a management and union standpoint, and he had interviewed both sides from three major American companies—Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone.

At first, he said, he thought he had lost the original thesis, but his wife found his old college books after their last move to a home in Sarasota, Fla., where the Di Nuoscios live during the winter, and he found the thesis with his old books—still intact. He felt it was in good enough shape to submit to Weatherhead.

"I made copies of it for my meeting with Professors Grant and Gerhart. I didn't want them to have to read something old and musty," Di Nuoscio said.

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Nurse grad had commercial start

by Jeff Bendix (jxb34)

Diane Dickerson got started on her career path from watching a television commercial.

As a child, Dickerson said she was moved by commercials for the "Save the Children" fund that showed pictures of children dying of starvation and diseases in third-world nations.

"I was appalled at the thought that children were dying of all these diseases, and from that point on I knew I wanted to be a doctor or a nurse," she said. "I chose nursing because of the opportunities for health promotion and disease prevention."

On May 18, Dickerson, a native of Aurora, Ohio, will take another big step in her chosen career when she receives her master's degree with a specialty in community health nursing from CWRU's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Dickerson began putting her career ambition into action after graduating from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She enlisted in the Peace Corps, where she spent two and a half years as a community health nurse in the Dominican Republic. There in the Dominican Republic she lived in an impoverished rural village without running water that was hours from the nearest paved road.

"Most of my work was with teen-agers, providing education about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases," she said. "We would train kids there to talk to their peers about these diseases and how to prevent them. We found that peer-to-peer training worked better than having foreigners telling them what they should be doing."

As the clinical component of her Bolton School degree, Dickerson conducted an assessment of measles immunization in East Cleveland, a community that has struggled with low rates of childhood immunizations of all kinds.

In concert with the Cleveland chapter of the Red Cross and University Hospitals Health Systems, she developed posters and pamphlets for distribution to daycare centers and schools warning parents of the

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Dentistry is all in the Petroff family

by Susan Griffith (sbg4)

When Heather Petroff is called to receive her doctor of dental science degree from CWRU, it truly will be a family affair.

With her degree, Petroff will join her mother Cynthia Petroff (1985), cousin Edward Marshall (1982) and her uncle Tom Marshall (1968) as dental alums from CWRU.

Petroff, 30, got an early introduction to CWRU's dental school. At 8 years old and with her hair in pigtails, the current All-American triathlete skipped down the halls at the CWRU dental school, accompanying her mother who was enrolled in dental classes there.

Dentistry was a topic discussed in the Petroff's home in Broadview Heights, Ohio. Heather's cousin lived with the family while going to the CWRU dental school and graduated in 1982, the year Heather's mother began classes there in order to move up in her 13-year career as a dental assistant and dental hygienist.

"I never felt any pressure to go to dental school," Heather said.

Four years ago she even kept the fact that she was applying to CWRU a secret because she did not want her mother to know.

Petroff said her mother was surprised and thrilled when she found out midway through the application process.

A 1990 graduate of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, Petroff headed to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to study psychology. She graduated with honors in 1994 and later earned her master's degree in child clinical psychology from West Virginia University in 1996.

"I've always loved working with children," Petroff said.

As a clinical psychologist experiencing changes in her patients' insurance benefits for special needs, she said she felt restricted in providing the necessary care children needed and decided to make a career change.

At that time, Petroff also began to help her mother in her dental office while one of her mother's co-workers was on maternity leave. The younger Petroff said she liked what she saw—especially when working with children.

Since then, Petroff has spent four busy years at CWRU.

In her first two, she became a master of time management: keeping up with her academic studies while training for amateur triathlon events that encompass running, biking and swimming.

Her athletic efforts have earned her status as an All-American triathlete for 2002, ranking her among the top 10 percent of amateur competitors. She has

competed in events across the country and now has moved into the professional ranks to compete against some of the country's top athletes.

Locally, she will compete in the professional division of the



Heather Petroff

Cleveland Metropolitan Triathlon in July.

In addition to getting up and starting to train at 6 a.m. before classes or clinics and then returning to the gym after school, Petroff teaches spinning classes on stationary bikes for road cyclists and competitive triathletes at Peak Performance in Broadview Heights.

She also has taken time to serve as the Class of 2003 vice president

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Social work major's field placement was with women behind bars

by Jeff Bendix (jxb34)

Melanie GiaMaria is one of the lucky ones: Her work is also her passion.

GiaMaria, who will receive a joint degree from CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and its School of Law, has devoted much of her time and energy outside of the classroom to helping women who are behind bars.

As the field placement portion of her MSSA degree, GiaMaria found a position with Women's Re-entry Network, a nonprofit group offering support services to women preparing to get out of prison. She provided crisis intervention services, case management and legal advocacy and organized support groups for women who had been victims of sexual assault and domestic violence before they were imprisoned.

"Somewhere between 70 and 90 percent of

women in prison have been victims of sexual assault or violence in their lives, and there weren't many services for dealing with these issues," she said. "For some of the women in these groups, it was the first time they'd ever talked about what happened to them."

She grew so committed to the work that she persuaded the Mandel School to waive its requirement of doing two separate field placements and remained with Women's Re-entry throughout her time at the school.

GiaMaria's own life experience helps in her work, since she is herself a survivor of sexual abuse.

"Being a survivor really helps forge a connection with these women," she said.

A native of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, now living in Mentor, Ohio, GiaMaria earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Ohio University in 1998. She came to CWRU

in 1999 to study law.

"I enjoyed the law program, but I felt I was missing something. I really wanted more hands-on experience," she said. "Fortunately I discovered the dual degree program with the Mandel School."

In addition to her work with Women's Re-entry, GiaMaria spends about 30 hours a month as a volunteer with the Rape Crisis Center.

Following graduation, GiaMaria will spend the summer on a fellowship in the law school's Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center working on family law cases referred from the Jewish Family Services Association and studying for the Ohio bar examination. For the long term, she hopes to become a criminal defense lawyer.

"My social work has really helped to develop my listening skills, and I think

that's extremely important for a lawyer," she said. "Too often attorneys don't listen closely to what their clients are saying and don't come up with the best solution for their needs. I think it would help every attorney to be trained in listening skills."

Although the formal part of her field placement ended in December, GiaMaria has stayed on at Women's Re-entry as a volunteer.

"I stay because I really love it," she said. "I'm very passionate about helping these women. I'm not saying they shouldn't be punished if they are convicted of crimes, but a lot of them are victims of circumstances beyond their control, which caused them to make some wrong decisions. But many of them have a lot of potential, and simply punishing them will not allow them to make use of their potential."

Med student makes beautiful music in hospital

by George Stamatis (gsx18)

Music and medicine are passions for Jenna I-Chun Liu, originally born in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan.

Not only is she becoming a physician, she is also an accomplished violinist.

She uses her music now as a way of relieving stress

in a hectic schedule and has been known to play during breaks at the hospital.

"Patients would come out of their rooms with their IV pole attached and listen to some soothing classical music," she said. "Now that I am no longer a professional violinist, I gain most happiness playing the violin if I could bring joy and

relaxation to others as well."

In 1998, this highly gifted young woman was named to *USA Today's* All-Stars team when she was a college senior at CWRU.

She moved to the United States with her parents when she was 4 years old as her father pursued a radiology residency. She moved back to Taiwan with her parents when she was 9 years old, but soon went abroad to London for musical training.

"At the age of 15, I decided I wanted to be a doctor as well as a musician; therefore, I came back to the U.S. for high school and later went on to college at Case Western Reserve University," she said. "I was given a full scholarship as well as a position in the Pre-Professional Scholars Program in medicine at CWRU. Plus with the proximity of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Orchestra, it was not a hard decision for me to come to Cleveland for undergraduate work. I was able to double major in music and biology and enjoy the rich culture that the city had to offer."

She said she hopes to follow in her father's (as well as her godfather and husband's) footsteps by entering the field of radiology. She will do her residency at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center.

"I see many parallels between music and medicine," she said. "To me, they are both arts. The art of discipline, hard work and attention to details apply to both fields of interest."



Jenna I-Chun Liu with her Match Day envelope informing her that she has been accepted for a radiology residency.

London dentist from Iran takes unusual path to CWRU law degree

by Jeff Bendix (jxb34)

Sometimes the discovery of a career field can come about in unlikely ways.

Atossa Alavi, a student at the CWRU School of Law, is a good example. A native of Iran—and trained as a dentist in London—Alavi expects to land a job in the field of patent law after graduation from the law school next week.

"As a child growing up in Mashad (a town in northeastern Iran), I wanted to be a dentist, so when I was 17, my parents sent me to University College in London," Alavi said. "I studied for four and a half years and then worked for a couple of years in a general practice in London. I decided that was not for me, so I went to work in oral and maxiofacial surgery departments in various hospitals, working on repairing injuries to the head and neck. That was very satisfying, because at the end of every day you feel like you've done something useful."

Eventually Alavi decided she wanted to pursue a doctorate. While investigating a program in San Francisco, she met the man who was to become her husband, a researcher at Kent State University. After a trans-Atlantic courtship, Alavi married in 1999 and moved to Hudson, Ohio, where she began to think about what she wanted to do with the rest of her life.

"I naturally considered continuing with dentistry, but to practice in the U.S. would have meant sitting the last two years of dental school, and the school here didn't have any openings," she said. "So I

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COMMENCEMENT 2003

Ferraro

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Fordham Law School at night. After spending 13 years at home raising her three children, she joined the Queens County District Attorney's Office. There, she started the Special Victims Bureau, supervising the prosecution of sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence and violent crimes against senior citizens.

Ferraro has honorary degrees from a number of colleges and universities nationwide. She currently serves as a board member of the Fordham Law School Board of Visitors, the

Bertarelli Foundation, the National Italian American Foundation, the Board of Advisors of the National Breast Cancer Research Fund, the Pension Rights Center and the National Women's Health Resource Center.

In addition to numerous articles, Ferraro has written the books *Ferraro, My Story*, which recounts the 1984 campaign; *Changing History: Women Power and Politics* and *Framing a Life: A Family Memoir*

Honorary degrees

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bacteria that stimulate the body's immune system. During this period he also served for several years on the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis and as a consultant to the World Health Organization. In 1975 he was named director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he led the effort to cope with microbial diseases as threats to health. From 1984–1989 he served as dean of the School of Medicine at Emory University and is currently

senior scientific adviser to the NIH's Fogarty International Center.

Richard H. Thaler

Since 1995, Richard Thaler has served as the Robert P. Gwinn Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics and director of the Center for Decision Research in the graduate school of business at the University of Chicago. He also is research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and co-director of the Behavioral Economics Project. He had earlier served on the faculties of the University of Rochester and Cornell

University. Thaler holds a bachelor's degree from CWRU and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Rochester. His teaching and research focus on managerial decision-making, and he is the author or co-author of dozens of articles and papers on the topic that have appeared in leading journals. Among the books he has published are *Quasi-Rational Economics* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1991) and *The Winner's Curse: Paradoxes and Anomalies of Economic Life* (Free Press, 1991, and Princeton University Press paperback, 1993).

Franz Welser-Möst

Austrian-born conductor Franz Welser-Möst is completing his first season as music director of The Cleveland Orchestra, CWRU's world-renowned neighbor in University Circle. Welser-Möst's rise to international fame began in 1986 when he made his debut with the London Philharmonic, where he later served as music director from 1990–1996. From 1995 to 2002 he served as music director of the Zurich Opera, conducting more than two dozen new productions and leading annual programs

of revivals that included operas from the French, German, Italian and Slavic repertoires. Throughout his young career he also has conducted a number of other orchestras and has made many award-winning orchestral recordings. In 1995 Welser-Möst was recognized by the Western Law Center for Disability Rights in Los Angeles for his advocacy for people with disabilities and particularly for his support of the Hartheim Institute, a home for the disabled in his hometown of Linz, Austria.

Athlete

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degree in biology from CWRU next month and then head south to Atlanta to attend Emory University's school of medicine. He is leaning toward studying surgery but unsure of what kind. One thing he is sure of is why he chose Emory.

"Emory has some clinical opportunities I don't think you can get elsewhere," George explained. "They have a huge community hospital (Grady Memorial) that is chronically understaffed by doctors, so med students get hands-on experience."

Throughout George's career at CWRU, he has made a point not to race or practice competitively on Sunday's due to his religious beliefs. He said he feels that anything he has achieved in college he owes to God.

"Any gifting I have, any perseverance that I have shown in the classroom or in sports, it is all a gift of God," he said. "It's my conviction that He doesn't want us doing ordinary work on Sunday, and it's the least I can do to obey that."

The work this student-athlete has done in the classroom and on the trail and track over the last four years in University Circle has been anything but ordinary.

Engineering

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and Ignacio Ocasio, assistant professor in the department of chemistry, with whom Petersen worked as a supplemental instructor for an introductory level chemistry course.

Petersen said Jennings, in particular, has written more than 10 letters of recommendation for him over the last two years. He also has been a student in four different civil engineering courses taught by Jennings and conducted civil engineering research with Jennings during his junior and senior years.

"Professor Jennings has been a true mentor for me both inside and outside the classroom," Petersen said. "I have been very fortunate to co-author articles with him in the field of environmental engineering and am in the process of preparing an article in the field of psychology with Professor Detterman."

In addition to his academic achievements, Petersen also has been a leader in his extracurricular activities. He has served as a member of the University

Undergraduate Faculty executive committee, played on the varsity soccer team and held several positions in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity including rush chairman, house manager and pledge trainer.

Petersen said he plans to use his success to be socially responsible and adds one more University mentor to his list of those who have helped him along the way—Margaret Robinson, dean of undergraduate studies.

"I think it is really important to use my personal success to better the world I live in, and I can do that through my graduate work in environmental engineering," Petersen said. "The University community has given me tremendous opportunities in research, teaching and extracurricular activities. I have to thank the office of undergraduate studies, where I was inspired as a sophomore to visualize academic excellence and where Dean Margaret Robinson has supported me through my applications for numerous scholarships and fellowships."

Dentistry

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and representative to the Faculty Relations Committee. She was awarded the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award as an outstanding student in the field of dentistry for children and an award from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry in recognition of achievements in community dentistry and dental public health.

While at CWRU, Heather has worked with the dental school's Healthy Smiles Sealant Program, Give Kids a Smile Day and in the pediatric dentistry department.

Her future plans include combining work in a practice with competing in sporting events. After a year off from school, she plans to consider a residency in pediatric dentistry.

Although studying dentistry has been a family affair, practicing dentistry won't be—at least not for now.

"I want to keep it just a mother-daughter relationship," Petroff said.

Weatherhead

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Marian Hogue, assistant dean for academic affairs in Weatherhead's Professional Degree Programs Administrative Offices (PDPAO), said in order for Di Nuoscio to come back to CWRU to complete the necessary requirements, he would have to get approval first.

"We obtained the approval of the provost and Leo worked with Professor Gerhart to complete this requirement," Hogue said. "We are so excited and proud that Leo decided to come back to school. He is a delightful person."

While Di Nuoscio won't formally use his

MBA in the workplace, he plans on staying active in his community as much as possible, whether it's helping people with their income taxes or other accounting work that he volunteers to do.

His life's ambition of receiving an MBA accomplished, Di Nuoscio said his only regret is that his parents aren't alive today to see him receive his master's degree.

"They were always pushing me to do the best I can do, to be the best I can be," he said. "They also said you can never have too much education. And that you're never too old to learn."

Nurse

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dangers of not having their children vaccinated against the disease. The last two Sundays in May will be "Measles Sundays," when residents can bring their children to several East Cleveland churches to have them immunized.

After graduation, Dickerson plans to take a position with the American Red Cross as a "health delegate," acting as the Red Cross's representative in assisting health programs in other countries.

"I'd like to go somewhere in Latin America, so I don't lose my Spanish," she laughed. Her chosen career path is at once rewarding and frustrating, she admitted.

"At times I get frustrated with the lack of resources and to see the disparity between terrible poverty and great wealth in a place like the Dominican Republic," she said. "But there's also a sense of satisfaction in feeling like I'm making my own path for what I'm doing. Other students come up to me all the time and ask how they can do what I'm doing. I guess I've become a resource."

Despite the difficulties, Dickerson said she has no regrets about her chosen path.

"If you've got to work for a living, you might as well do something that helps other people," she said.

Law

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thought it was time for a change of career. I decided to study law because I knew it was diverse enough that I could use much of my knowledge and past experience."

She enrolled in the law school in 2000 and quickly discovered that she enjoyed studying law and had an aptitude for it. She was named a contributing editor to *Law Review*. Her Note, "The Stem Cell Compromise: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing—Constitutional Implications

of the Bush Plan" is due to be published in a forthcoming issue of *Health Matrix*, the journal of CWRU's Law-Medicine Center.

"My previous post-graduate courses really helped me cope with law school," she said. "I had also done a lot of writing. I'd had seven papers published in peer-reviewed journals. The writing experience turned out to be very important, especially because English is my second language."

In the summer of 2002,

Alavi worked at the prestigious Cleveland law firm Jones Day. She has been offered a full-time position with Jones Day after graduation, where she hopes to practice patent law.

"I have a strong background in science, and you really need that in order to be a patent attorney," she said. "Ideally, I could work on patents involving new dental inventions. That would really combine my areas of expertise and would be very satisfying."