



**CIOCCA
CENTER**
FOR PRINCIPLED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Director's Letter 2023



Andreas
Widmer

Welcome to the Art & Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship's 2022/23 annual report! In the following pages, you'll get a taste of the fast pace of activity here on campus — whether events with active business practitioners or our bedrock programs for students. And you'll meet some of our favorite people: our students and partners, who walk with us in developing and spreading Principled Entrepreneurship.

Just as an example, one of the most exciting developments of the past year has been the establishment of our new Board of Advisors. Comprised of experienced and accomplished individuals from various industries, our Board of Advisors brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to guide and support our initiatives and further define our core focus. Their mentorship and counsel have been particularly invaluable in propelling VentureLab, our incubator, as well as our Family Business Consortium, forward.

Speaking of VentureLab, it has become a hub of activity and excitement on our campus. It provides aspiring student and alumni entrepreneurs with the resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities they need to turn their ideas into thriving businesses. With the help of our Board of Advisors, we're growing VentureLab into a mature and comprehensive ecosystem that nurtures and accelerates the growth of startups. Our students have embraced this platform wholeheartedly, and are creating remarkable ventures, always with the vision of seeking enterprise solutions to problem-solving.

It is my hope that this enthusiasm and sense of purpose comes across in this report that we put together for you. I am proud of the work our team has done during the last twelve months. Each one of them is a critical contributor and reason for the excellence of our center. Recently, a visitor commented on her visit to one of our events that "The Ciocca Center is THE place to be!" May every reader come away with the same impression! And I invite you to visit if you have occasion to come to Washington, and to partner with us in the good work that has begun.

Be well,
Andreas





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WHO WE ARE

Vision

We harness the power of principled entrepreneurship to overcome the small-spirited, zero-sum vision of business by inspiring the creation of profitable, person-centered companies that provide enterprise solutions to human problems.



Mission

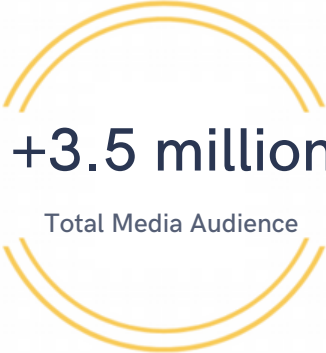
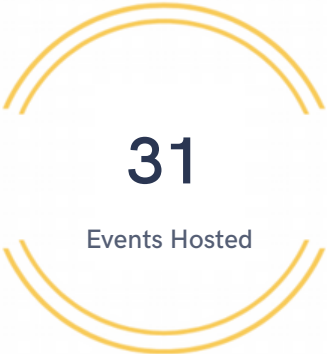
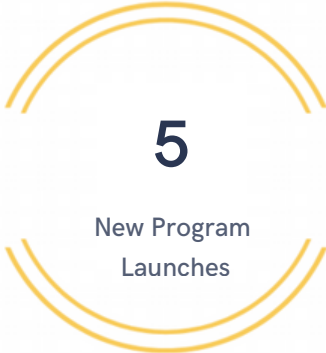
- Re-imagine entrepreneurship education
- Form and educate principled entrepreneurs who produce goods and services that truly serve
- Help people discover and embrace business as a noble vocation that leads to human flourishing
- Introduce students to the liberating fruits of free enterprise
- Offer students a pathway to create their own businesses
- Engage (potential) entrepreneurs in lifelong learning and offer a community for it
- Produce media content and teaching materials that support our vision
- Encourage students to critically engage intellectual traditions that see the marketplace as an order based on entrepreneurship and knowledge creation
- Promote Principled Entrepreneurship and incorporate Catholic Social Thought into business practice

The 5 Pillars of Principled Entrepreneurship

- 1 The Economy Exists for People, Not People for the Economy
- 2 To Work Is to Create; To Create Is to be Human
- 3 Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast
- 4 Principled Business Creates Win-Win Solutions
- 5 Always Think Like an Entrepreneur



OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Teaching the Teachers, Connecting the Leaders

This program year brought a burgeoning number of energetic young business leaders and teachers to our campus to hone their skills, network, and learn the habits of Principled Entrepreneurship from us.



Principled Entrepreneurship Conference

This started in New York, where, thanks to generous support from the John Templeton Foundation and our Napa Institute partners, we were able to bring business leaders, economists, political theorists and public intellectuals together for the Principled Entrepreneurship Conference.

The conference theme was largely inspired by Templeton Award Winner Ambassador Michael Novak. Its premise asserts that “capitalism” does not exist in isolation but rests on three interrelated grounds: a free-market economy, limited government to assert the rule of law, and a moral-cultural system that upholds the family and personal freedom through principled behavior. There were more than 125 registered attendees and recordings of the proceedings continue to find an audience.

Religion, Free Enterprise, and Government:
The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism 40 Years Later

In a time when genuine dialogue is hard to achieve, we’re proud to have provided a forum for a variety of perspectives to be in conversation with each other, in mutual pursuit of the ideas and policies that can help everyone rise, in keeping with our First Pillar of Principled Entrepreneurship: **The Economy Exists for People, Not People for the Economy.**



Beauty at Work Dinner



When our Distinguished Fellow, Brandon Vaidyanathan, came to us with a great proposal, we were happy to help him bring an interdisciplinary mix of academics, politicians, writers, "foodies" and creatives to the dinner table for a conversation about the relationship between beauty and excellence in human work. Dr. Vaidyanathan is studying beauty in the workplace, and finding deep meaning in work and human creativity is our **second pillar of Principled Entrepreneurship**.



SENT

V E N T U R E S

SENT Ventures

April brought the **Sent Ventures Summit** to campus, hosting more than 250 highly successful and innovative Catholic CEOs, founders, and investors in an "iron sharpens iron" event to help them grow both spiritually and in business excellence.

Speakers and panelists were a "who's who" of Catholic entrepreneurship, including Alex Jones of **Hallow**, Michael Ortner of **Capterra**, Fr. Leo Patalinghug of **Plating Grace**, John Crowley of **Amicus Therapeutics**, Caroline Gash of **Irish Angels** and David DeWolf of **3Pillar Global**. Ciocca Center Director Andreas Widmer and four of our Board of Advisors or Distinguished Fellows also spoke at the event, which participants valued as a rare opportunity to exchange ideas with people striving to change the way business is done by living their ideals unapologetically while striving to provide excellent products and services.

Coming together to discuss the work environment, work-life balance and contemporary HR challenges, this year's summit addressed Pillars 3 and 4 of Principled Entrepreneurship: **Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast**, and **Principled Business Creates Win-Win Solutions**.



The Ciocca Center not only co-hosted the event, but chaired its panel on non-profit finance, and provided student volunteers — which allowed our students a chance to learn from role models not too far removed from their own student years.



Catholic Social Thought in Business Education program

At the end of May we hosted the 5th annual Catholic Social Thought in Business Education program, a collaboration among the **Ciocca Center**, the **Mendoza School of Business**, the **John Ryan Institute**, the **Pontifical University Santa Croce**, and the **Lumen Christi Institute** to teach a deep and non-ideological approach to Catholic Social Teaching to Business-school professors.



One comment we heard repeatedly from guests at the sessions was what a delight it was to be able to discuss freely, to test and refine their own ideas or be challenged by ideas they wouldn't have considered without the space for discussion. We're proud of this, because respectful open discussion is part of the way humans come to the win-win solutions essential to Pillar #4 of **Principled Entrepreneurship**.

25 Business School professors and doctoral candidates from around the world gathered to debate the implications of the papal encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, as well as exchange ideas for infusing business practice with Catholic Social Thought in different cultural contexts.



Networking Mixer

For the first time, student leaders of our Entrepreneurship co-specialization planned and executed an evening of networking. More than 150 students and local entrepreneurs looking for interns or hires attended the event.



Pictured here: Some of Ciocca's Center's finest with **Christopher Donatelli Sr.**, (R) entrepreneur and owner of **Lou's City Bar**, who graciously hosted the event.



cede Novak Challenge

In the fall we launched the CEDE Novak Challenge, a year-long program bringing 50 high school students together virtually to discuss the themes of Michael Novak's *Business As a Calling* and transmit the lessons learned about communities and the free enterprise system to their peers.

Students had the opportunity to learn from CEDE International Director Jon Bachura, who served as program host and is known for modeling curiosity and finding the fun in hard work. Jon also brought in wonderful guests for the students: Dr. Elizabeth Shaw of Catholic Distance University, who was for many years Ambassador Novak's chief collaborator; Fr. Robert Sirico, founder of the Acton Institute, and Dr. Erik Matson, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Thanks to a partnership with the John Templeton Foundation, we were able to award the first four Novak Challenge Prizes for the best presentations at the close of our program year.



BEST IN SHOW



INNOVATION



ARTISTRY



SOCIAL NETWORK



Dominic Adkins
Best in Show



Hailey Klein
Social Network



Joshua Mello
Innovation

Abigail Freymann
Artistry



Family Business Consortium

The Family Business Consortium hosted two events (one each semester), bringing together 50-100 family business owners to tackle the unique concerns and challenges of family businesses. Topics were centered around managing the four sources of family capital:



FINANCIAL



HUMAN



SOCIAL



SPIRITUAL

Speakers were primarily principals of family businesses themselves, and provided guidance around managing succession, human resources aligned to family values, establishing foundational family governance, and how to embed family mission in every aspect of family business.

CEDE High School Facilitators

We certified our first official Catholic Entrepreneurship Design Experience (CEDE) High School Facilitators in February, by hosting our first live CEDE Facilitators Conference in Washington, DC, which brought 12 new CEDE high school facilitators (reaching roughly 200 high schoolers) to campus for a week of training, team-building, and iterating the program. In March we held our first ever virtual CEDE Singapore facilitator training for 8 Missionaries (who work with thousands of children every year).



Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

For the third year in a row, thanks to our collaboration with its current and previous Director, the Ciocca Center was able to place a graduate of our program at the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Serena Viti, an alumna, is working at the intersection of Catholic Social Teaching and economic development, building sustainable, ethical, and inclusive economic solutions in light of the Gospel and the dignity of each person, the whole person.

Belmont University Inaugural Hope Summit

Luke Burgis, Andreas Widmer and their guest Karl Wirth (Chief Product & Tech officer at TreasureData!) attended the Belmont University Inaugural Hope Summit, with the theme **Helping Regions Thrive by Making Hope Real.**





Innovative Teaching

Continuing our track record of innovation in the classroom, the Ciocca Center team launched a new co-specialization, launched a free video course on the meaning of work, created new classes, and opened new opportunities for students across the university to study entrepreneurship.

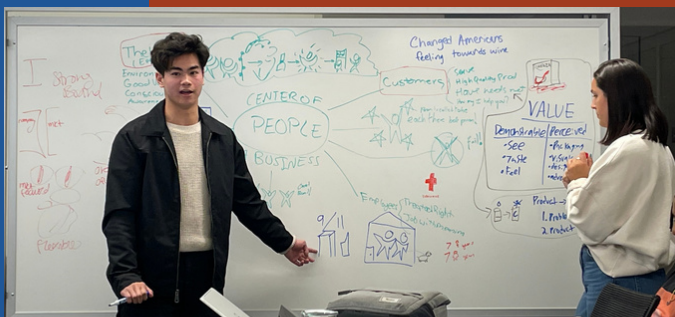
NEW COURSE ON DESIRE

Prof. Luke Burgis created "Psychology, Relationships, & Human Dynamics," to explore among other topics the mimetic theory of René Girard and how mimesis affects advertising, marketing, and human relationships. The class itself was an innovation, and it introduced the use of Virtual Reality devices to explore solutions to real world problems in one classroom project. Prof. Burgis received an Experiential Learning Grant to help develop the course.



NEW CONCENTRATION IN FAMILY BUSINESS

We launched a new co-specialization (concentration) in Family Business, including two new courses: "Managing the Family Enterprise," and "Family Business Strategy," both focused on Principled Entrepreneurship through the lens of family businesses (i.e., navigating the challenging dynamics of managing family & business to achieve long-term value creation).



Growing Capacity for Creativity

Prof. Andreas Widmer iterated his "Principled Entrepreneurship" class, incorporating the 5 Pillars of Principled Entrepreneurship solidified in *The Art of Principled Entrepreneurship*. He refined his use of visual note-taking and mind-mapping techniques to inspire new enterprise solutions to social and development problems.



The Vocation to Business

This year we added more value to the popular freshman survey course, The Vocation to Business (ENT 118), by:

- **upgrading** the method by which students track customer engagement with their new businesses.
- instituting the **business mentor program**, which invites recent alumni to coach new students in the launch of their first business using the lean start-up model. We have engaged 50 alumni and senior class students to mentor in this way, and feedback was very positive from both sides. Young alumni were delighted to have a way to “give back” and stay engaged with the Busch School and current students appreciated the personal attention and help.
- This course had its **largest class ever** – 250 students in the Fall, and 47 additional students in the Spring.



Venture Lab Growth

Students in “Small Business Growth Lab” (ENT 455), launched 6 new businesses with 3 students selected as VentureLab Summer Scholars to work to grow their businesses over the summer.

6

New
Businesses

3

Summer
Scholars

Collaboration with the Engineering and Architecture schools

We worked with the Engineering and Architecture schools to create paths for their students to take classes in and minor in entrepreneurship. We engaged a new donor to support that effort and join our Board of Advisors.





The Gospel of Work

Don't just *make more*,
become more.



The Gospel of Work is a free 8-part video series beautifully filmed and directed by Michael Matheson Miller. Informed by the teachings of the Catholic Church and inspired by what Andreas Widmer learned from Pope St. John Paul the Great during his service as a Swiss Guard, this series takes a close look at what scripture and tradition have to say about the vocation and meaning of work, the important role it plays in human flourishing, and how not to let negative cultural trends steal the joy, meaning, and community inherent in work well done. The series explores work under the lens of our sanctification—and provides actionable insights for building a good life and a good business. Widmer is joined by his colleague Luke Burgis, fellow CEOs and scholars.

The series immediately caught the attention of The Augustine Institute and its Formed platform – the premier Catholic streaming service, with a potential audience of 1.6 million viewers. More than 17,000 people completed the course on Formed in its first few months.



The M5 Leadership Institute, directed by Benjamin Hagan, is using the Gospel of Work for its employee training as part of “servant leadership.”



"The Gospel of Work opened my eyes to the way work can and should be done." ~T. Gibney



New Partnerships

In addition to stalwart partners **Stand Together**, **Carlyse Ciocca**, and **Lannette & Scott Turicchi**, the Ciocca Center created a board of advisors to provide strategic guidance and philanthropic support for the Center's mission. We're delighted to introduce this powerhouse team of advisors, each of them experts and game-changers in their respective fields, as well as being models of Principled Entrepreneurship.



Ciocca Director Andreas Widmer with Carlyse Ciocca.



Nathan Bond
Founder of Rifle Paper Company



John Mino
*Retired partner at Calfee,
Managing Trustee of family business*



Deacon RJ Dourney
*Former CEO of Cosi
COO of Au Bon Pain*



Andy Tran
Seasoned entrepreneur & VC investor



Gary Gigot
*Seasoned entrepreneur
VC investor*



Robert Tunmire
*VC investor
Former CEO of Neighborly /
Dwyer Group*



Carolyn Machado
Founder of Machado & Company



Erin Van de Voorde
Co-founder of West of Perfection



ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

cede

CATHOLIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP
& DESIGN EXPERIENCE



At the Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship, we insist that “entrepreneurship” is not only life as a tech founder or Wall Street whiz, though some entrepreneurs fit that profile. Instead, entrepreneurship is more a mental model enabling people in any field to be alert to opportunities, eager to serve, and intentional about developing their own creativity and talents.

A few years into teaching our seminal “Vocation of Business” course to Catholic University freshmen, we realized we wanted to mentor this mindset even earlier – and thus CEDE was born.



Catholic Entrepreneurship and Design Experience (CEDE) is a highly-flexible modular-format course designed for high school students interested in exploring the importance of entrepreneurship and what it means in their own lives.



CEDE HIGHLIGHTS

CEDE BY THE NUMBERS

12 ➔ 30

Program Sites

300 ➔ 1,000

Students

47 ➔ 75

Program Facilitators



Hosting more than

650 Students

from two different Catholic dioceses on our Catholic U campus just before Thanksgiving. (That is more students than we had program-wide last year!)

You can see some of our workshops in action in the background of two new high-impact videos promoting CEDE that were made possible by the Turicchi family.



This is Lorenzo, from Frassati Catholic in Spring, TX. The first of what we hope will be many students who choose to come to Catholic U because of CEDE.



Partner Spotlight: Lannette Turicchi

Everyone Has A Story

Catholic Entrepreneurship and Design Experience (CEDE), our program to get students thinking like entrepreneurs, above all about their own lives, could not have met with its current level of success without the encouragement and support of Lannette Turicchi. Lannette lives in Pasadena, California with her husband, Scott, and three college-age daughters. She spent the bulk of her career in the film industry. Here are highlights of a recent conversation we had with Lannette about why CEDE has captured her attention.

Good educators bring out the beauty in each person's story.

Everyone has a unique story. It can be told in various ways, but still belongs to the single individual. One's story can be enhanced, shaped, and edited, but it doesn't belong to anyone else. The best educators are like film editors. A film editor takes the numerous "takes" from a movie and matches them back to the director and writer's vision for the original script, making sure the dialog is consistent, calling for color correction and sound effects where needed, basically taking the work someone else did and enhancing it to ensure a beautiful outcome. At its best, education is like that: bringing out the beauty that's there without imposing.



Zip code isn't destiny, and that's why entrepreneurship is vital.

Learning from a friend that Michael Milken thought "Education is the great equalizer" had an outsized impact on me in college. Michael asked team members to go into the inner cities to teach math because he knew understanding math creates opportunity. This resonated with me while reflecting on my own complex pathway into college. I concluded your zip code does not determine your destiny.

What I like about entrepreneurship in education is the ability to reach every student where they are. We removed trade schools from the high school curriculum and pushed all students toward college. This leaves those who determine college is not for them due to finances, lack of preparedness, or lack of desire with limited ability to learn a skill set that can sustain them as young adults.



Entrepreneurship isn't only working in tech, as many people mistakenly think.

Entrepreneurship becomes an equalizer. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, determination, and grit. These are all things one needs to find personal success, in any field, and wherever you are starting from.

My grandmother was my role model.

Now more than ever, African American children need role models close to home to show them the way forward. Mine was my grandmother. She was the best role model. She was fierce in her belief that everyone needs a moral compass. She had all these little "Nettie-isms" (her name was Nettie). She once told me it takes less time to do the right thing than the wrong one. She and my grandfather had eight children, and she once sat down with all the older grandkids (ages 7-13) and said, "Let me tell you something. Grandma does not visit the jailhouse. I do not write letters to the jailhouse or bake cookies for the jailhouse. So, you can go there if you want to, but you won't see me."



It stunned me for a moment, as I was seven years old. It crushed me that my granny would not come to visit me if I ended up in jail. Then she said, "You all have two parents, do not disappoint them. I worked picking cotton in a cotton field, cleaning other people's houses, taking care of other people's children, so you would not have to." She encouraged us to "handle our business" and not let anyone tell us we could not do something. Whenever I find myself stuck or up against a challenge, I think of my beautiful grandmother, who could rock a pair of pantyhose better than any supermodel, and smile. I remember her favorite saying, "There is nothing wrong with hard work," and then I get busy.

I wish all kids had CEDE.

I recently participated as a judge in a business plan competition for a CEDE high school in Northern California. Witnessing all the program has to offer students left me with mixed feelings. I was thrilled for the students in the program and a bit sad for those who will not get this experience. The CEDE program has the potential to shake up the education system. Not all education is equal but CEDE can help level the field. The CEDE program is for anyone who wants to instill the joy of learning in students. Moreover, if you can ever visit a CEDE classroom, you will see nothing but confidence and joy!



Incubating Enterprise Solutions to Human Problems



When W. Brian Walsh joined our team as director of VentureLab, the Ciocca Center's classroom-based incubator for student and alumni businesses, we knew we'd be giving our students the benefit of

his experience as founder of two companies (FaithDirect and TipYo) that exemplify what we teach: the best solutions for problems often come from enterprise. We also knew we were providing students with a stellar role model, as Prof. Walsh is a committed family man, serves on the boards of Givr and Watts of Love, and has been active in prison ministry.



Jim VandeHei, Founder Axios and Politico



Mark Ferguson, Founder of Givr

What we didn't see coming was Prof. Walsh's deep love of Catholic University as his alma mater, and his vision and skill in building a network of alumni to help mentor our students in their business ventures. Alumni help out in a variety of ways, including guest lecturing in ENT 455, the VentureLab classroom, or being part of a team of professionals offering legal, accounting, and other advice to our student and alumni businesses.

Students from across campus in any discipline can join VentureLab. Using the Business Model Canvas, students spend the semester learning about notable founders, iconic businesses, and hearing from a select number of guest speakers. By semester's end, each student develops their own business and presents to the class. Students whose business ideas are fairly well developed can join VentureLab through an independent study, or as VentureLab Summer Scholars- a program in which a select number of students receive financial support that enables them to work on their businesses.



VentureLab seniors Will Simone and Jack Dee presenting their business to our Board of Advisors



VentureLab Alumnus Profile: Grady Connolly

You never know where Ciocca Center alumnus Grady Connolly will turn up next. The first year of his social media agency, *Social Thomist*, has taken him to Croatia, Bosnia, Israel, Jordan, India, Portugal, Spain, and across the U.S. to create content for his clients – many of whom have amassed six-figure followings. That's not typically been easy for faith-based content creators to achieve.

Social Thomist's mission is to bring faith, hope, and truth to screens around the world. Its specialty is working with people and organizations who will help people find their way – but whose social media "game" tends to be lacking.

It's been a spectacular start in terms of professional achievement and extraordinary personal experiences, but Grady didn't walk straight from Commencement onto a plane to an exotic locale. Like most entrepreneurs, he had to experience what he *didn't* like before he could craft a solution he did.

Grady built a large network harnessing social media for music and movies after graduation. Though he loved the industry, he didn't love promoting empty entertainments. Dissatisfied, Grady pulled the classic entrepreneur move: "With no plan and no job lined up, I quit. (Like any restless creator would do, right?)"



Thinking about next steps, Grady took some work for some Catholic priests. Seemed like a major downgrade at first: social media for the Church? Seemed like an internet Ghetto.

To his surprise, he found his flow. "I quickly found joy, unlike anything I'd experienced before. "I would not have reached this point without Andreas Widmer, Brian Walsh, Luke Burgis, and all the other members of the Ciocca Center. And the Ciocca Center continues to mentor young business owners like me. A mentorship and support network like this is essential for a recent graduate learning the ins and outs of the trade. They are so gifted and devoted to serving God through their work, and I'm grateful for their expertise and their desire to lead others in the same path as well."



Meet VentureLab Scholars...

Larelle Clarke



Mrs. Larelle Clarke came to the Ciocca Center after some years in government service where, over time, she started to be restless to solve problems her agency wasn't nimble enough to solve and she personally felt pigeon-holed, unable to put all her gifts into service. The pandemic became a perfect time for her to re-think and go back to school. A native Washingtonian, Larelle chose the Busch School and Ciocca Center in part, she says, because "the idea that business can be a vocation aligned with my beliefs and immediately confirmed my choice to attend."

Professors and students alike love having Larelle in class because, though she has more experience to share than the typical underclassman, she wears her wisdom lightly: happy to share, but humble enough to blend right in with less experienced students.

Larelle is one of our 2023 Venture Lab Scholars, and with Venture Lab support is spending the summer developing her plan to offer healthy, fresh, local meal prep services to professionals on the go – including traveling nurses, corporate executives and the like, but especially over- the- road truck drivers, whose diets are notoriously bad from lack of options at truck stops.

Mia Pinsonault



Junior **Mia Pinsonault** joined The Busch School as a sophomore because she got excited about our marketing and entrepreneurship programs. She hails from New Jersey, enjoys hiking and wake surfing, and is part of the student team that brought the new student-entrepreneur networking mixer to life this program year.

True to the problem-solving mindset we try to inculcate in our students, Mia is spending her VentureLab Fellowship working on an idea generated by spending time with the many nurses among her siblings and extended family.

"I have an idea about how to reduce wait times in hospital ERs," Mia tells us, "and VentureLab has been helping me by putting me in contact with CUA Alumni, tech providers, as well as healthcare workers to help support and execute my idea. This is a supportive community of entrepreneurs or those who want to help brainstorm ideas. If you ever have had an idea and are struggling to make it happen this is the place to go. Professors and fellow students are always willing to give insights and advice to help execute your project."

Afua Agyekum



Afua Agyekum came to The Catholic University of America for its entrepreneurship program: she says she's always had an interest in business and considers finding the Busch School a blessing. Afua loves sports and "anything outdoorsy." She is a track and field athlete for the University, but had trouble finding suitable workout partners in the off season. Thinking like an entrepreneur, Afua turned her "pain" into a business idea.

She describes the project: I'm working on Xardeo, a platform to allow people to locate workout partners of similar interests, so people can build friendships and work on both mental and physical health together. This VentureLab Summer Scholar gig is helping me make my dreams into reality. I'm grateful the Ciocca Center believes in me enough to give me a little financial "space" to be able to implement my ideas and work with professionals and professors. By connecting me with peers and business owners, I am truly starting a business, and that's exciting.



Venture Lab

Enriching class content is the opportunity to hear from successful alumni and other guest lecturers including:



Angela Santomero
Creator of Blue's Clues &
Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood



Jim Vanderhei
Founder of Axios
& Politico



Andy Tran
Venture Design
Ciocca Board of Advisors



Mark Ferguson
Founder of Givr



Grady Connolly



Ben Gardner
Recent Alums

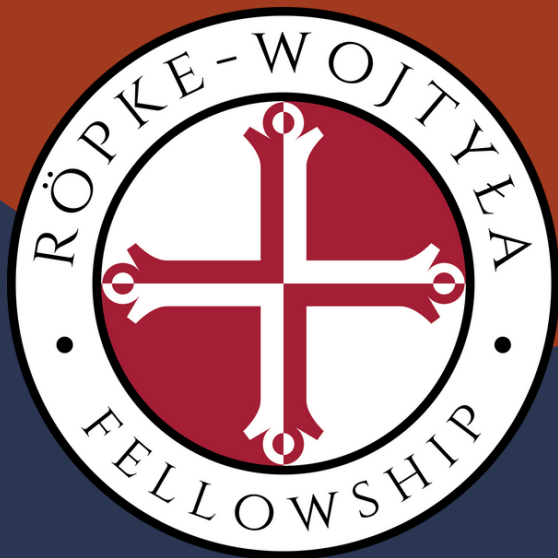


Brian Cashman
GM, New York
Yankees

Want to sponsor a Summer Scholar? Or offer your time as a business coach? Reach out to Brian Walsh at walshw@cua.edu



Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship



The Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship is a program for Catholic undergraduate seniors from any institution across the United States. The purpose of the program is to educate future Catholic intellectuals and business leaders in the study of market order and social thought — and in particular Catholic social thought as it compares to more secular scholarship.

Throughout the year, fellows meet to discuss topics in history, philosophy, political economy, politics, and sociology. Fellows lead the conversation, but they are guided in discussion by scholars who showcase what The Busch School has to offer, including Director Frederic Sautet, our colleagues Catherine and Michael Pakaluk, Maximilian Torres, Paul Radich, and Ciocca Center team member Rebecca Teti.



The RWF Rome trip allowed Fellow and newlywed Therese Klingele Arslan and her husband to receive the *Sposi Novelli* blessing from Pope Francis.



Class of 2023



Maggie Black
Christendom College
Classical Liberal Arts



Maureen Pierce
Catholic University of America
Accounting



Clarissa Emanuel
Saint Louis University
Philosophy



Theresa Ramsay
Wyoming Catholic College
Liberal Arts



Therese Klingele Arslan
University of Wisconsin Madison
Political Science



Andrew Reasor
Benedictine College
Accounting and Theology



Kathryn Linz
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Business Analytics



Thomas Richter
University of Notre Dame
Political Science and Philosophy



Kyle McClelland
University of Virginia
Economics and Statistics



Luke Schafer
University of Notre Dame
Economics and Global Affairs



Blake Perry
University of Notre Dame
Finance



Luke Sherman
Magdalen College
Philosophy



Samantha Phillips
Catholic University of America
Business Administration



William Yanek
Kenyon College
Political Science



FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship continues to offer a life-changing experience for impressive young minds. Below you'll read about this from the students themselves, but first a few highlights from the 2022-23 cohort.

2022-23 Cohort Notable Placements

Harvard Law School

Notre Dame Law School

McKinsey Consulting

Goldman Sachs

2 Pursuing PhDs in Philosophy

US Senator Barrasso of Wyoming

Michael Novak's *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*

As part of a project made possible by the John Templeton Foundation, we included Michael Novak's *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* in the reading list for the first time. We knew the book was a worthy read but to our delight found it helped crystalize the conversation throughout the year on topics in political economy and political philosophy.



RWF alums (first cohort in 2017) Nick Vance and Emily Dalsky at Nick's ordination to the diaconate

Since its inception in in 2017, The Fellowship has drawn from twenty-eight different U.S. institutions of higher learning, from small Catholic liberal arts schools to large secular schools. Every year we've added new schools to the roster, and this year was no exception as we hosted Fellows from MIT, Kenyon College, Christendom College and University of Wisconsin for the first time.



In their words, here is what RWF meant to this year's Fellows:

"The Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship has given me the opportunity to study fundamental works in political economy and Catholic Social Teaching with exceptional scholars and conscientious students, all of whom have become close friends. Through the Fellowship, I've grown intellectually and spiritually, and look forward to taking all that I've learned and applying it in law school and my future endeavors."

—Blake Perry, Notre Dame University



Fellows with Dr. Sautet during their Rome trip

"I consider the Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship to have been one of the highlights of my college experience. I was intellectually challenged in a new way, felt overwhelming spiritual growth, and made lasting friendships with peers that I know have enriched my worldview and prepared me to positively contribute to society."

—Maureen Pierce, Catholic University



"I had the most incredible time exploring Rome with the other Röpke-Wojtyła fellows, who I was blessed to grow closer to and learn from during our discussions! Intellectual communities as amazing as this one are hard to come by, and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience!"

—Kathryn Linz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

April 2023 alumni dinner for those who live in DC area



"The Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship has been one of my most formative collegiate experiences. My understanding of economic issues has been deepened through readings and discussions with my peers, while, at the same time, my faith has been strengthened by infusing those conversations with considerations of the Divine."

— Luke Schafer, University of Notre Dame

"The Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship offers students the rare opportunity to build a scholarly network of peers across the country who are passionate about their faith and desire to build a more just and equitable government and economic system that aligns with a lived religion."

—Clarissa Emanuel, Saint Louis University



Alumni Updates

Five years into the fellowship, here's how some alumni are making their mark.

In Academia:

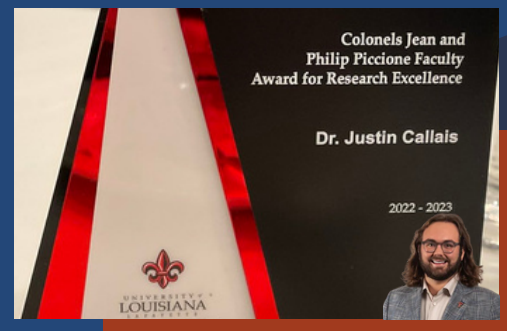
Justin Callais, Class of 2018, finished his first year as Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Louisiana Lafayette while also holding a role at the Archbridge Institute. He received the **Faculty Award for Research Excellence** in his business school this year, a great achievement so early in his scholarly career.

Sean Haefner, Class of 2019, finished his third year in the PhD in philosophy program and won the **Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award** at Boston College.

Elizabeth Regnerus, Class of 2022, was awarded the **Paul Ramsey Fellowship with the Center for Bioethics and Culture** at Baylor University while continuing her PhD studies at Baylor University.

Nicholas Schaffield, Class of 2022, finished his first year at Catholic University's PhD in philosophy program. He delivered a paper at the 46th Annual Meeting of the American Maritain Association. The paper was given the association's award for best paper by a graduate student.

Kacey Reeves West, Class of 2018, completed coursework for her PhD in Economics at George Mason University and is preparing to defend her dissertation. She has published a number of journal articles and taught undergraduate economics courses at Christendom College.



In the Church:

Nicholas Vance, Class of 2018, is working as a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis while studying at St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Cullen Hilliker and Jacob Mazur-Batistoni, Class of 2020, are pursuing priesthood with the Dominicans and are currently roommates in St. Louis, Missouri.

Taylor Bahr, Class of 2022, will be entering the Jesuit Novitiate of the Midwest in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on August 19, 2023.

Jack Power, Class of 2022, will join the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in the summer of 2023. After his novitiate year in Cincinnati, he will be at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. for the next six years after that.

Serena Viti, Class of 2020, moved to Rome in September 2022 to work as an Official for Economy in the Research & Reflection Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.



Business & Entrepreneurship:

Michael Lucchese, Class of 2018, started a new firm: **Pipe Creek Consulting**.

Max Bodach, Class of 2021, began a role as Project Manager at the **Foundation for American Innovation**.

Joseph Galassi, Class of 2021, will begin his MBA at Georgetown in July 2023.

Margaret Tynan, Class of 2021, graduated with an MBA from Benedictine College.

Law & Medicine:

Sarah Becker Toates, Class of 2020, finished her third year of medical school and published "*Relationships Between the Number of Chaplain Visits and Patient Characteristics: A Retrospective Review of a Large Suburban Midwest Hospital*" in the **Journal of Religious Health** in December 2022.

Mary Katherine Rackers Johnson, Class of 2020, is completing an accelerated 1 year nursing program at Barnes Jewish College with aspirations of becoming a labor and delivery or postpartum nurse.

Jorge Plaza, Class of 2021, will start studying at **Harvard Law School** this fall.

Veronica Maska, Class of 2022, will start law school at **Notre Dame** this fall.



RWF on Zoom during a February session



Cullen Hilliker (RWF 2020) with our colleague Prof. Pakaluk at St. Louis U

Please reach out to Dr. Sautet if you are interested in a copy of the Fellowship's reading selections. A copy of each cohort's capstone essays, released each winter in an edited volume, is available on our website.



NOVAK FELLOWSHIP

The late Ambassador Michael Novak (1933-2016) spent a career thinking and writing about all that pertains to the human spirit and the moral foundations undergirding economic and political systems. When first published in 1982, his seminal work *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* caught the attention of Pope St. John Paul II, who became Novak's friend. *Spirit* was eagerly studied in secret and at personal risk by peoples in the grip of Soviet and other forms of tyranny. It earned him the highest civilian honor from not one, but three, subsequently liberated countries, and it contributed to his winning of the prestigious Templeton Prize.



Perhaps as important as his specific ideas was his approach. He was interdisciplinary, open-minded, and supremely realistic, and therefore able to bring fresh insights to old problems because he could cast aside cant and convention to examine an institution or phenomenon afresh.



The Ciocca Center is proud that Mr. Novak finished his extraordinary career teaching for us, and it is with an eye to our friend and mentor's generous and open approach to human problems that the Novak Undergraduate Fellowship meets regularly to reconsider his seminal work, and endeavors to create an interdisciplinary community of Catholic University scholars where public intellectuals the caliber of Michael Novak can be formed. Ciocca Center Operations Director Rebecca Teti leads the fellowship, joined by our Academic Director, Frederic Sautet. This year we launched our first live cohort, with seven Fellows.

We are grateful for the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation in making this program possible.



The Busch School of Business FAMILY BUSINESS CONSORTIUM

 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



Now in its second year, the Family Business Consortium is an organization of family entrepreneurs united in our understanding that, whether large or small, family businesses have much in common — unique challenges and complexities, but also opportunities for growth.

Those opportunities are not merely economic. Our consortium shares a commitment to build not just strong businesses, but strong families. What sets us apart is our conviction that the **family is the fundamental building block of both society and the economy.**

Our mission is to help generations of like-minded family businesses grow in the fullest sense of the word. By providing resources for current family business owners, and through forming the next generation of family business leaders, we grow closer, wiser, and more prosperous — together.

This year we're proud to have roughly doubled the number of "Founding Member" families. As mentioned above, we were pleased to gather more than 100 family entrepreneurs on campus in the Fall and Spring. The theme this year was understanding and managing the four different sources of family business capital.



SOCIAL



HUMAN



SPIRITUAL



FINANCIAL



STRONG FAMILIES & FAMILY BUSINESSES

FALL SPEAKERS



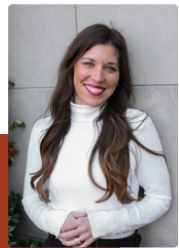
GERRY FRIGON

CEO, Taylor Frigon Capital and host of the "Long Only" podcast
Discussed Financial Capital: A "Long Only" Economic Outlook



CECILIA PAPPAS

Social Media Influencer and Co-Founder, West of Perfection
Discussed Social Capital
Leveraging the Power of Social Media to Build Networks and Drive Growth



MARY KATHERINE WATHEN

Co-Founder, West of Perfection
Discussed Human Capital
Business as a Noble Vocation: Creating a More Engaged Workforce in the Great Resignation



JOHN REIM

Managing Director, Morgan Stanley
Discussed Spiritual Capital

SPRING SPEAKERS



CHRIS LAGAN

CFA to Financial Capital
Discussed Navigating Uncertainty and Preserving Family Wealth



JOHN MINO

The Busch School
Discussed Social Capital: Family Governance



TRACY PHILLIPS

Consultant and Owner, TMP Solutions LLC
Discussed Human Capital: Navigating Emerging Issues with Human Resources



GATES GARCIA

President & CEO, Pinehill Capital
Discussed The Importance of Family Mission

In addition, because the Consortium was founded in the year of St. Joseph and takes him as our patron, we were pleased to unveil a statue entitled *Father's Instruction* by sculptor Timothy Schmalz. *Father's Instruction* depicts St. Joseph at work showing a young Jesus the art of carpentry. We were pleased to present desktop replicas of this beautiful work to the original Founding Partner Families in recognition of their generosity and active support of our mission.

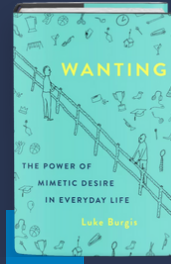
- The Cannizzaro Family
- The Horner Family
- The Kaneb Family
- The Kilner Family
- The Long Family
- The Machado Ulm Family
- The Mino Family
- The Pores Family
- The Seegers Family
- The Smith Family
- The Yoest Family



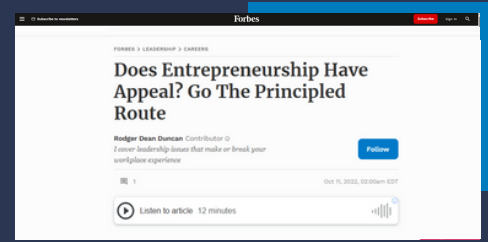
MEDIA & PRESENTATIONS



Wired "Three Cities Problem"



Book of the Year



Andreas in Forbes

2022

June • Luke Burgis appears with Bishop Robert Barron on Word on Fire podcast.

July • Andreas & Michelle Widmer and Jon Bachura gave talks about our families' journeys with homeschooling to the Catholic Homeschool Community for Catholic Homeschool Week.
• Rebecca Teti appears on Girlfriends podcast with Danielle Bean.

Aug • CEDE Philly summer program wrapped up with a total of 70 students participating.
• Jon interviewed by Dominic de Souza for **SmartCatholics Mastermind** video series.
• **Wired.com**'s publication of Luke Burgis' "**The Three City Problem**" catches fire, reaches hundreds of thousands, is picked up by multiple commenters, including Bishop Robert Barron, and leads to grant funding to subsidize curriculum development around the ideas at other universities.

Sep • Jon - spoke at Regina Mater school in Austin, TX about Vision & Principled Entrepreneurship.
• Luke, Rebecca, and Jon spoke at the CEDE graduation ceremony at Marin Catholic.
• Luke & Andreas kick off the first semester Lunch & Learn.
• Luke publishes "Longing After the Fleshpots" in **First Things**.

Oct • Novak High School Symposium kicked off Oct 18.
• Jon spoke to students at Carrollton High School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, FL.
• Luke & Jon presented to ACU members at Ciocca, TBS, & CEDE.
• Jon & Luke facilitated a CEDE workshop at Belen Jesuit.
• Andreas, Fred, Luke, Rebecca & Katie traveled to NY for the **Principled Entrepreneurship Conference**, where Andreas, Fred & Rebecca hosted panels.
• Alum Grady Connolly speaks about Tiktokology on campus.
• Launch of the Novak High School Symposium.
• **Bishop Robert Barron interviews Luke Burgis about The Three Cities problem.**
• Röpke-Wojtyła Colloquium 1.



October cont'd

- Andreas published in **Forbes** on worker disengagement.
- John Burger interviews Andreas on Quiet Quitting for **Aleteia**.
- Luke is published on "Making Space for Silence" in **Templeton Ideas**.

Nov

- 118 trade show: 250 students show their first company. Pres. Kilpatrick and many others come to visit.
- Lunch & Learn with Brandon Vaidyanathan.
- Jon, Luke, & Andreas facilitated 3 half-day CEDE workshops for the sophomore class at St. John's College High School. This was filmed for marketing video.
- Jon, Luke, and Andreas welcomed students from 5 high schools from Philadelphia for a full day CEDE workshop that included Mass and filming for the CEDE marketing video project.
- **Aleo Review of Books names Luke Burgis' *Wanting* Book of the Year 2022**

Dec

- Andreas presents *The Art of Principled Entrepreneurship* on a panel to the Koch Foundation.
- Andreas appears on Reboot Chronicles Podcast.

2023

Jan

- Andreas' Tiktok for Napa Institute on death of Pope Benedict has 180,000 views.
- Board of Advisors dinner with students.
- First advisory board meeting.
- Rebecca addresses St. Jerome women's retreat.
- Jon visits and gives talk at Miami Diocesan High School.
- Andreas publishes review of Fr. Sirico's **The Economics of the Parables** for the Independent Institute.

Feb

- RWF Colloquium 2.
- Team hosts Cede Facilitator Conference on campus.
- Andreas at Legatus Annual Summit - talk and panel appearance
- Andreas teaches zoom class at Indiana Wesleyan Doctoral program
- Luke addresses New York Encounter



Andreas, Michelle, and Jon gave a talk about their families' journeys with homeschooling to the Catholic Homeschool Community for Catholic Homeschool Week.



Mar

- Jon helped kickoff the CEDE Singapore facilitator training program.
- Student-planned-and-led Entrepreneurship networking event.
- Hosted Fr. Sirico at the Novak High School Symposium.
- Jon presented to the global cohort of the Tepeyac Leadership Institute with adult professionals in attendance from around the world.
- Rebecca gives Busch School Lenten talk on almsgiving.
- Andreas and Fred meet Brendan McCord at Mercatus Institute to discuss Principled Entrepreneurship.
- Andreas tours and talks with Santa Clara Ciocca Center.
- Acton Institute publishes Andreas' article on Iqbal Qadir and Grameenphone.
- Andreas and Fred visit Elkhart, IN & speak to local entrepreneurs, government, NGOs.

April

- **Andreas speaks at 100 year anniversary of Mendoza Business School, Notre Dame**
- Ciocca Center **hosts Sent Ventures Summit** on campus.
- **University Research Day**, Trade show, 49 students present their first business.
- Jay Richards is our guest on Lunch & Learn, discussing AI.
- Andreas' **Our Sunday Visitor Ted-style talk** goes live.
- Rebecca addresses Forming Whole Hearts group in Calgary, Alberta.
- Family Consortium Event Day.
- Andreas presents to Paul VI High School.
- 2nd Ciocca Center Advisory Board meeting.
- Andreas presents to South Dakota State Refugee Program.

May

- Ciocca Center hosts Lumen Christi Seminar.
- Jon presents to the Catholic Assembly for Business about the application of Catholic Social Thought in daily life.
- Andreas publishes major article for Swiss magazine **Schweizer Monat**.
- Catholic powerhouse author **Matthew Kelly interviews Luke Burgis** for his podcast.



Rebecca appears on Girlfriends podcast with Danielle Bean



Jon & Luke facilitated a CEDE workshop at Belen Jesuit



Jon interviewed by Dominic de Souza for SmartCatholics



OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Ciocca Center is grateful for the partnership of these educational, private sector, and philanthropic institutions:



Turicchi Family Foundation



Considine Family Foundation





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