Since assuming the presidency in July, I am continually moved by the stories of how Chatham has transformed the lives of our alumni and by our curious and passionate students pursuing their dreams for the future. Throughout our community, the common thread that connects us all is an understanding that the ethos of this place—from the beauty of Shadyside Campus to the mix of our mission, values, and academic approach—is something special.

It is not an understatement to say I have become president of this place at a time of significant change at Chatham and in higher education. As we always have, we are responding to the need to change with a spirit and attitude that nothing is insurmountable when we work together. In four short months, we have undertaken a university-wide reorganization, welcomed our second largest undergraduate class ever, reduced university expenses by over $6 million, began a comprehensive academic review, and launched a two-year action plan, RENEW 2025, built around three core focus areas.

One of those focus areas, Enhance Our Campus Experience, is where I need your help this year as we launch our new Cornerstone Giving Initiative, a fundraising effort to enhance Shadyside Campus through four giving areas:

- Building renewal
- Athletics and recreation
- The campus arboretum
- Historic preservation

As you know, Shadyside Campus is one of Pittsburgh’s most beautiful, memorable, and historic locations. Plus, with our undergraduate population growing to over 1,200 students (up from below 600 ten years ago), the needs of our students and campus continue to expand. To respond to this need, the Cornerstone Giving Initiative is a new and exciting way for our alumni and donors to help renew and enhance the Shadyside Campus for future generations.

Your support of Cornerstone this year will ensure we can make the words of our beloved alma mater as true today as they were when written: “Like cornerstones of temples, polished and gleaming, strong, and secure. We pledge our lives to be mansions of beauty to endure.”

More details on the giving opportunities and the ways you can give are included in this mailer. As always, thank you for your commitment and support of Chatham and our students and for considering a gift to the Cornerstone Giving Initiative this year.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Phillips
President
The Cornerstone Giving Initiative

BUILDING RENEWAL

In the months since our announcement of the “Chatham Renew” fund earlier this fall, our alumni and friends have rallied to the cause of supporting our students with unrestricted support for our facilities and grounds maintenance, repair, and improvements. The Chatham experience is rooted in life as part of our idyllic campus community, tucked away on a quiet little hillside in the middle of Pittsburgh. We know our alumni and friends want to ensure today and tomorrow’s Chatham students can experience a campus environment as vibrant and beautiful as those of past generations, and Chatham Renew is already making a difference toward realizing that future. Your gift to “Chatham Renew” supports:

• New pool cues, board games, and video games in recreational facilities
• Energy efficient lighting in student housing
• Furniture for and enhancements to outdoor patios
• Window repair and roofing

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Throughout Chatham’s history, playing competitive athletics and pursuing recreational opportunities have been an essential part of the Chatham experience for many students. From intramurals and fitness classes to conference championships and national recognition for student-athlete academic excellence, today’s Chatham students continue our tradition of excelling on the field, in the gym, and in the classroom. Investments in athletics and recreation facilities help us grow by expanding athletics and recreation opportunities for students while enhancing the overall student experience. Your gift to “Athletics & Recreation” supports:

• Upgrading Varsity Field for athletic teams, recreation/intramurals, and camps
• Expanding and enhancing the Athletic & Fitness Center locker rooms, fitness areas, and other upgrades
• Off-campus practice and playing locations for hockey, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and softball
• Developing a new track and field facility for our teams at Eden Hall Campus
THE CAMPUS ARBORETUM

Surrounding our historic mansions and facilities is an idyllic 32-acre arboretum. Home to more than 115 different varieties of trees, the Arboretum is an inviting place for students and community members to stroll, meditate, and be at one with nature, all in the midst of a bustling 21st century city. Caring for such a large variety of tree life requires constant vigilance and upkeep but our work maintaining the grounds has allowed us to be a member of the American Public Garden Association for over 25 years, as well as a part of the Pittsburgh Garden Trail. Your gift to “The Campus Arboretum” supports:

• Japanese flowering crabapples
• River birches
• Kentucky coffeetrees
• And eleven unique species of maple

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Our built environment plays such a part in the Chatham experience—both background and revelation, infrastructure and inspiration, giver of shelter and shelter of memories. While it’s the people and experiences that we treasure, at Chatham, the where is as important as the what. That’s because our historic buildings are more than renovated mansions: they’re the birthplaces of women’s education and empowerment in Pittsburgh. Your gift to “Historic Preservation” supports:

• The sweeping staircase of Mellon Hall
• The sun-filled patios of Fickes Hall
• The stained-glass windows of Laughlin House
• The grand lobby of Rea House