Angel and Jessica (Roye) Cirilo, Class of 1995 & 1993

In high school Angel and Jessica Cirilo knew each other’s faces and names, but nothing more. They were set up on a blind date in 1999 and married in 2003. Both have had successful career paths since graduating from CV. Jessica went on to Gettysburg College, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in health and exercise science. She then received her master’s degree in sport management from East Stroudsburg University. Her first job was as the sport and fitness coordinator with Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Department. Currently, she is the program coordinator for Chester County Parks and Recreation Department.

Angel graduated with a business degree from York Technical Institute. Following graduation, he returned to Leola to work for his family’s business, A & A Refuse Services, Inc. During this time he served as a volunteer coach for CV varsity football, junior high wrestling, and the elementary wrestling program. He decided to pursue a degree in elementary education and received an academic scholarship to attend Cheyney University. While at Cheyney, he worked for the Chester Upland School District after-school program and served as the junior varsity baseball coach.

With the termination of the after-school program, Angel returned to Leola where he currently works as the vice president of operations for his family’s business. He still maintains the statistics for the CV football team.

In their free time, Jessica and Angel enjoy art projects, home improvement projects, and recreational sports. They have a 1-year-old daughter, Ashley Angelica.

About their time at CV, they said, “Teachers were not just teachers when they were in the classroom. They were approachable after the bell rang. Today we occasionally run into a former teacher who knows our names and will stop and chat. CV also offered a variety of subjects to help build an interest base for future career paths.”

There were many teachers who influenced them, but German teacher Friedlinde Ebersole was especially significant to Jessica. Both had coaches (Lee Gernert and Gerad Novak) who also made a difference in their lives.

To current CV students, Jessica and Angel have this advice, “Keep in mind that the path you think you have set for yourself after high school often does not turn into the path you will follow. Life’s journey can be tricky, but also rewarding. Learn from all your experiences and know that changes are bound to be a part of life.”

Thomas D. Dell, Class of 1981

Tom Dell is the founder of and managing attorney at Dell and Homsher, LLC in Lancaster. Dell has had a distinguished career path since graduating from CV. He earned his bachelor’s degree, summa cum laude, from Penn State University, where he graduated first in his class with a 4.0 Grade Point Average. At Penn State, Dell played on the NCAA Division 1-A men’s varsity golf team. He went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he worked as the national senior editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy. Following graduation, Dell worked for several law firms before opening his own in 1996. He is a general practitioner and practices business and corporate law, real estate, family law, litigation, and wills and estates.

In his free time, he plays amateur golf tournaments around the country, including the U.S. Amateur, the Pennsylvania Open, and the Pennsylvania Middle Amateur. He is active as the secretary of the board of directors of The First Tee of the Susquehanna Valley, an organization that mentors youth in the game of golf. Over the years, Dell has also served as an adjunct professor at Harrisburg Area Community College and has served as the solicitor for JUST (victims of violent crimes) and United Against Puppy Mills. He has been recognized for his work...
Don Eberly, Class of 1971

Don Eberly has dedicated his professional life to promoting responsible citizenship and government in the United States and throughout the world. Over the years, Eberly has held numerous government positions including Deputy Assistant to the President for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Senior Counselor for International Civil Society, USAID; and Director of Private Sector Coordination, Tsunami Reconstruction, based at the State Department. Additionally, Eberly spent nearly a decade in Washington in the 1980s, working in Congress and the White House. Following the fall of Saddam Hussein, Eberly served as the Senior Ministry Advisor for the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Iraq. In this role, he reorganized the ministry and appointed new senior officials to replace those who served under Saddam. He was also responsible for reorganizing the country’s Olympic team, building new programs for more than 200 youth centers and replenishing equipment and supplies, which included securing the donation of 80,000 soccer balls. After returning to the U.S., Eberly presided over social programs and private donations for Iraq.

Eberly is the author or editor of seven books and has founded many civic initiatives including the National Fatherhood Initiative and the Civil Society Project.

Following his graduation from CV, Eberly earned a degree from Philadelphia Biblical University. He holds graduate degrees from George Washington University and Harvard University and has done doctoral work at Penn State University.

For his work, Eberly received a Distinguished Service Award from the President for serving inside the White House during the attack of Sept. 11, 2001 and for managing the aftermath. He also received the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award, the highest civilian award for joint military-civilian service for his service in Iraq.

Eberly, who resides in Lancaster, is married and has three children -- Preston, 22; Caroline, 21; and Margaret, 16. In his free time, he enjoys anything outdoors, especially fishing and spending time in the Rockies.

About his education at CV, Eberly said, “Even though for some strange reason I was more motivated by activity outside of the classroom than inside, I still gained what I believe is an excellent education at CV. I felt the school was motivated by a vision for excellence, which I caught. CV imparted character.”

Of his teachers, Eberly said John Bratton influenced him the most.

“Without question, one of the finest human beings I have ever met over my entire life was John Bratton, who was an outstanding teacher and role model in industrial arts,” he said.

For current students, Eberly has this advice, “Set goals, although realistic goals based upon an honest self-assessment, then persevere. Never, ever give up. Most importantly, be clear on what success really is: For me, it is living for purposes larger than self, which means you can be a success however exalted or humble your vocation may be.”
Mark A. Forsha, Class of 1973

Mark A. Forsha has devoted his professional and personal life to children. Following graduation from CV, Forsha earned a degree in communications from Bucks County Community College. He pursued a career in radio and television broadcasting before returning to Millersville to earn his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in elementary education. He was hired as a fifth-grade teacher at Hans Herr Elementary in Lampeter-Strasburg School District in 1983 and has been there ever since. For 12 years, Forsha coached an award-winning elementary team in Odyssey of the Mind and Destination ImagiNation (creative problem-solving teams).

In his free time, Forsha volunteers for Setebaid Services at educational programs designed for children with diabetes. He is currently the program director at Camp Setebaid for two weeks in August and served as the camp director for 13 years prior to 1997. Forsha is on the Setebaid Services, Inc. Board of Directors and serves on various committees for the organization. While camp director for Camp Setebaid, he received the ADA Mid-Pennsylvania Affiliate Award in Camping in 1988 and the Joanne Haines Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Services in 1996. Forsha’s other interests include playing pinochle with his family, reading children’s books, and doing church work. He is the chair of the Traditional Worship Ministry Team at Lancaster Church of the Brethren and sings in the chancel choir.

Forsha is married to the former Melode Cain, CV class of 1974. They have two sons – Ryan, 21, and Todd, 16.

About his experience at CV, he said, “As I remember, CV offered me a well-rounded education. I was prepared for college taking all the college prep classes but enjoyed the arts as well. These life-building experiences prepared me for the world and a future in education and working with children and youth.”

Several teachers influenced Forsha at CV, including his father, retired social studies teacher Jack Forsha. Music teacher Gerald Wingenroth, physical education teacher and football coach Arthur Grimm and Spanish teacher Glenn Banner were also significant to him.

To current CV students, Forsha has this advice, “Success is not measured by how much money you make or how many toys you have. Success is measured by your faith, your service to others, your family, your friendships, and giving something back to society.”

Lynn Groff Loomis, Class of 1976

Lynn Groff Loomis owns and practices psychotherapy at New Passages, a group practice in Harrisburg that provides therapeutic, psychiatric, and psychological services, as well as alternative healing, such as acupuncture and shiatsu. Although she originally planned to be an art therapist and earned her bachelor’s degree in art education from Penn State University, Loomis went on to earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling. Following graduation, Loomis worked in Harrisburg with migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Then, for several years she worked at a drop-in center for at-risk adolescents. Eventually she entered the mental health field where she worked in a variety of positions, including case manager, supervisor, and therapist. She also worked in management and administration before opening New Passages in 1991.

In her free time, Loomis enjoys reading, gardening, walking, biking, kayaking, and traveling. She has been married for 24 years and has a 22-year-old son, Mike. She and her family participated in the Fresh Air Fund for several years and she served on the board of directors of the Harrisburg Girls Club. She also volunteered for the Democratic Party in the most recent presidential election.

About her education at CV, Loomis said, “My education at CV provided me with quite a well-rounded preparation for life, discipline, and good study habits, and was a district ahead of its time in that I was afforded Spanish classes from third-grade on.”

About her teachers, Loomis said, “I had a number of memorable teachers but the most influential was Carol Anspach -- my art teacher throughout high school. She fostered an exciting
and creative environment, which has helped me appreciate and occasionally create art to this day. She helped those of us in her class ‘think outside the box.’”

To current students, Loomis has this advice, “Take chances, and follow your instincts and what you enjoy. Try not to worry about making mistakes or a lot of money. Just explore being ‘perfectly imperfect’ and always treat others as you would like to be treated. A generous spirit is rewarded well in many ways.”

Kathy Kaufhold Phillips, Class of 1986

Kathy Kaufhold Phillips is founder and CEO of Primitives by Kathy, a wholesale trade business that sells gifts and home décor items to stores throughout the world. Phillips started her business in 1997 after working with her mom in Steph’s Folk Art Studio in Smoketown for 11 years following graduation. Since that time, Primitives by Kathy has grown considerably. Phillips used to design some of the products herself, but stopped in 2002 to spend more time directing her artists. She now has 28 artists who design her product line, which is produced in China and India. The company’s headquarters are located in Greenfield Industrial Park, but the artists are based all over the country.

Phillips has been recognized for her success several times; however, two of her most prestigious awards include the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Best 50 Women in Business Award for Pennsylvania.

Through her business and beyond, Phillips has been involved in community service. When she first started Primitives, she used trainees from Goodwill Industries to manufacture her products. Currently, Phillips serves as a mentor for ASSETS, an organization that helps those with low and moderate incomes start their own businesses.

In her free time, Phillips enjoys spending time with her children, Benjamin, 13, and Annarose, 10, her two dogs, and two cats. She also enjoys working in her gardens and traveling to the Caribbean.

From her years at CV, Phillips said she gained a “general knowledge of accounting and economics.” She participated in work experience her senior year, which helped her get a great start on her career.

Phillips advises current students to have “the curiosity to understand how things work and why things work.” She also recommends “really engaging in what you do and learning from every experience.”

Lisa Landis Blowers, 1985

Lisa Landis Blowers never thought she would have the career path that she has, but credits her many experiences and opportunities for leading her to where she is today. Blowers is the co-host of the Get Up and Go show weekday mornings on WJTL FM 90.3, a local contemporary Christian radio station. She is also the founder and host of Kids Cookie Break, a live Christian radio show for kids under 14 on Saturday mornings on WJTL. In 2005 and 2006, Kids Cookie Break won the award for the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasting Excellence in Broadcasting for Best Radio Program Designed for Children.

Blowers got her start on the campus radio station at Bloomsburg University, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communications. During her college years, Blowers interned at WNBC-AM radio news with Don Imus in New York City. She moved to Florida following graduation where she worked for Walt Disney World as a tour guide at MGM Studios and for a talk radio station on weekends. Blowers moved back to Lancaster after becoming engaged and worked at her family’s business, the Olde Mill House Shoppe, before starting with WJTL in 1991.
In addition to her work at WJTL, Blowers also does voiceover work for WGAL on the weekends. She also works as a Disc Jockey for weddings.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband John Blowers, also a 1985 CV graduate, and her son Alex, 8. She loves film, likes to cook, and enjoys water skiing and swimming.

In the community, Blowers volunteers for the Lancaster Historic Preservation Trust. She also serves on the board of directors of Kids and Cultures, an organization that introduces children to the cultures of children who live in other parts of the world through live storytelling and drama. Recently, Blowers traveled to India with WJTL as part of a Compassion International campaign to encourage people to sponsor children in need.

From her education at CV, Blowers said she received “a love of learning that I think I developed from incredible teachers that were passionate about teaching.”

Some of these teachers included Bob Krewson, Michael Valdez, Roberta Krewson, Jim Wile, Barb Titus, and Sue Fisher.

For current students, Blowers has this advice, “If you have a passion for something, don’t be afraid to try it.”

Marlene LeFever, Class of 1960

Marlene LeFever is Vice President of Educational Development for Cook Communications Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colo. She is Cook Communications’ first woman Vice President. Following her graduation from CV, LeFever went to Barrington College in Rhode Island. Before starting graduate school, she worked as a reporter and photographer for a year at the Lancaster New Era. She then earned her master’s degree in Christian education from Wheaton College, outside of Chicago. LeFever has spent most of her career working at Cook Communications, moving from positions in curriculum development to video curriculum to director of the college/seminary programs. Most recently she directed the International Christian Publishing Institute and taught workshops for publishers in Brazil and India.

Each year, LeFever speaks at several Christian education professionals’ and volunteers’ events, writer’s conferences, professional organization meetings and churches. She’s conducted cross-cultural Christian education in Mexico and The Philippines and has led seminars in the U.S., Canada, Australia, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

In 2004, she was named one of the six leading women in Christian education in the latter 20th Century. Two books she wrote received Awards of Merit from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association and both her textbooks have been on the list of the top six books used as Christian education texts in colleges and seminaries. They have been translated into Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Arabic, and Spanish.

In addition to her career, LeFever serves on the board of the Center for Student Missions, an organization that gives teens a cross-cultural experience in the U.S. and Canada by working with social and Christian organizations in the inner-city. She has been married to Jack Risley for 36 years.

From her time at CV, LeFever has fond memories of Latin teacher Mary Lehr and music teacher Lloyd McCurdy.

For current students, she has this advice, “Concentrate on the areas in which you’re talented or gifted and less on those areas where you will probably never excel. Celebrate every small win on your journey to reaching your life’s goal.”
Kevin E. Pirkey, Class of 1982

Kevin Pirkey is Vice President and Co-Owner of Odyssey Press in Gonic, N.H. Odyssey is an ultrashort run digital printer, meaning the company prints low quantities, of scientific and academic books and journals. To prepare for his career, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in journalism with a specialization in computer science and graphic design from Ohio University. He has also completed graduate work at Temple and Drexel Universities.

Pirkey’s first job out of college was with The Sheridan Press in Hanover. Since that time has held several positions in sales and marketing management. He started two companies, including Sheridan Electronic Systems in Baltimore and Dartmouth Journal Services in Orford, N.H. In his current position, he travels all over the United States and throughout the world, handling sales for Odyssey.

Pirkey and his wife live in Spring Grove, York County, with their two children, Lauren and Jonathan. In his free time, he enjoys photography and fishing. He coaches his son’s Little League baseball team and has also served as a Cub Scout leader.

From his time at CV, Pirkey learned the value of a strong education and the drive and freedom to follow his dreams. His work with Robert Schappell on the yearbook, Robert Borden on the school newspaper, and Darlene Boggs in English class lead him into a lifelong love of publishing and the printed word.

For current students, Pirkey has this advice, “Do what you really love.”

Anne Shannon Esbenshade, Class of 1989

Anne Shannon Esbenshade is the evening weekend anchor and a Lancaster County reporter with WGAL News 8. Following CV, Esbenshade graduated from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor’s degree in political science and communications. She started her career working at WHP-TV in Harrisburg where she advanced from a production assistant/assignment desk position to morning anchor and reporter. Esbenshade started at WGAL in 1999, first as the weekend morning anchor, before moving into her current position.

For her work, Esbenshade has won several Associated Press Awards for reporting and has been nominated for an Emmy twice.

In the community, Esbenshade volunteers with the Schreiber Pediatric Rehabilitation Center and Hospice of Lancaster County. She currently serves as the chairperson of the board of directors of Beth Shalom House of Peace, a Christian transitional home for women.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Craig Esbenshade, CV class of 1988, and two young sons, Connor and Jackson. Together they enjoy working outside and gardening.

Esbenshade said she gained much from her education at CV.

“It wasn’t until years after high school that I actually realized how important my education was at CV. Teachers at Conestoga Valley always pushed me to do my best. I was fortunate to be surrounded by so many teachers and others who believed in me and encouraged me. That’s a true gift. While my education was so important, the most valuable thing I gained from my time at CV were the lifelong friendships. My best friends are the ones I’ve known since Junior High!”

While many teachers influenced her, Esbenshade said two stand out.

“Mrs. [Darlene] Boggs was a great motivator. She loved what she did and caused her students to be passionate about reading and English as well. I also loved Mr. [Bob] Krewson. He was Student Council adviser. His creativity and enthusiasm for life were incredible. He was always passionate about everything he did, which influenced me greatly.”

For current CV students, Esbenshade has this advice, “Find something you love to do and then work hard to be the best in your field.”