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*HONORING*

MICHAEL B. LAVERY

DR. TAL BEN-SHAHAR

ERBACH COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

---

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 2025 | 6:30 PM

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Merrill is proud to support Centenary University and congratulates this year's Gold Dome Award recipients.



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## WELCOME



Welcome to the Centenary University Annual Scholarship Event!

This has been an extraordinary year at the University. Through your generous contributions to Centenary Now: The Campaign for College & Opportunity for Everyone, we have provided scholarship support to grateful students, launched innovative academic programs, and strengthened Centenary's brand recognition—in New Jersey and around the world!

As you know, many Centenary students need an additional \$5,000 or less in scholarship support to graduate. The goal of tonight's event is to raise funds to ensure that no Centenary student drops out of college for financial reasons.

In addition to raising money for our students, tonight we will honor some extraordinary friends of Centenary with the Gold Dome Award, the University's highest honor:

- Michael Lavery HA '12, a former member of the Centenary University Board of Trustees, former Mayor of Hackettstown and Founding Member and current attorney at Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen. Michael has made significant and lasting contributions to Centenary University throughout his tenure. We applaud his innovative thinking and unwavering dedication to the success of our students and the advancement of the university.
- Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar, an internationally renowned teacher and author in the fields of happiness and leadership. Tal is the director of the world's first MA in Happiness Studies at Centenary University, which graduated its first class in 2024.
- Erbach Communications Group, a strategic partner for more than 25 years, plays a crucial role in Centenary University's outreach. They excel at crafting compelling narratives that resonate with media and prospective donors, significantly boosting our press coverage and consistently aiding in the growth of University contributions.

I am grateful that you have joined us tonight in celebrating these exceptional people, as well as our students. Thanks to you, many more Centenary students will be able to graduate on time and succeed in life after college. Enjoy this special celebration of Centenary!

Dale Caldwell, Ed.D.  
President





## *Gold Dome Award Recipient*

Michael B. Lavery



Michael B. Lavery received an honorary degree from Centenary University in 2012 and has previously served on the Centenary University Board of Trustees. Michael is also the founding partner of Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen, P.C. Mr. Lavery is considered one of the state's foremost attorneys in the area of municipal government law. Mr. Lavery is currently the Township Attorney for Parsippany-Troy Hills, Lopatcong, Mansfield, Oxford, Greenwich and Washington (Warren County) Townships, the Chester Board of Adjustment, and the Upper Delaware Soil Conservation District. Michael also serves the community as a member of the Hackettstown Medical Center Advisors Board and is the former President of the Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation Board. In addition, he was the Mayor of Hackettstown from 2005 to 2011 and is the past president of the Hackettstown Chamber of Commerce. Finally, Mr. Lavery is the former State Chairman for the New Jersey Republican

Party and formerly served as General Counsel to the NJGOP from November 2017 - 2020. On June 25, 2015, he was appointed by Governor Chris Christie to serve as a Commissioner for the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, where he continues to serve.





## *Gold Dome Award Recipient*

Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar



Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar is an internationally renowned teacher and author in the fields of happiness and leadership.

After graduating from Harvard with a BA in Philosophy and Psychology and a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior, Tal taught two of the most popular courses in Harvard's history: Positive Psychology and The Psychology of Leadership. He then taught Happiness Studies at Columbia University. A prolific writer, Tal's books have appeared on best-sellers lists around the world and have been translated into more than 30 languages.

Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar consults and lectures to executives in multinational corporations, educational institutions, and the general public. He is the co-founder of the Happiness Studies Academy, as well as the creator and instructor of the Certificate in Happiness Studies and the Happier School programs.

Tal is the director of the world's first MA in Happiness Studies at Centenary University, which graduated its first class in 2024.





## *Gold Dome Award Recipient*

### Erbach Communications Group



### **Erbach Communications Group**

Erbach Communications Group (ECG) delivers strategic communications and branding solutions specializing in education, healthcare, and fundraising. Located in Lyndhurst, NJ, the firm executes strategies that bring a fresh perspective to the language, look, and feel of each client's brand, and then integrates those strategies across multiple platforms to engage constituents and generate measurable results.

ECG has partnered with Centenary University for more than 25 years, most recently on initiatives including media relations, alumni publications, and fundraising campaigns.

For Centenary, the focus is on compelling storytelling to persuade media and prospective donors to engage with the University. This multi-year initiative has resulted in a significant increase in press coverage, as well as a gradual rise in the number of donors and contributions to Centenary.

Under the leadership of President Kristen Volkland, ECG has earned recognition for its work on behalf of clients from a host of professional organizations. The firm is a member of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, Small Business Association, Women Owned SBA, and National Women Business Owners Corporation.





Enactus is an international entrepreneurial business organization that operates out of 36 countries worldwide. Enactus equips university students with the skills and knowledge to become socially responsible leaders and make a difference in their community.

At Centenary University's chapter of Enactus, we are a project-based course and organization that helps solve community and global issues. Each of our projects develops, funds and implements solutions to different social, cultural, and environmental issues. Centenary Enactus also has a nationally ranked and globally recognized presentation team, who present our projects annually at Enactus USA National Exposition.



## *Van Winkle Achievement Award*



**Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97** exemplifies the spirit of the Van Winkle Award through her remarkable career in fundraising and philanthropy, her steadfast dedication to Centenary University, and her broad impact on both higher education and the communities she serves.

With more than two decades of leadership at institutions like Princeton and Lehigh, Rochelle has transformed development programs, led national conversations in planned giving, and earned distinguished recognition for her innovation and impact.

Her service to Centenary is equally inspiring. She served on the Centenary Board of Trustees for 16 years, the last five as Board Chair, and has been a member of the Centenary President's Advisory Council and several ad hoc committees and task forces. She is an alumna of Centenary and a proud member of the Centenary Society and the Whitney Society (recognizing individuals who have included Centenary in their estate plans). Beyond her professional accomplishments, Rochelle's passion for volunteerism, her pursuit of lifelong learning, and her deep commitment to community service represent the very best of what this award seeks to honor.



## RECEPTION

Hors d'oeuvres and Cocktails

Silent Auction

6:30 pm

## PROGRAM & AWARD CEREMONY

Dessert & Coffee

Banquet Room

8:30 - 9:30 pm

## SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

9:30 pm

## ABOUT CENTENARY UNIVERSITY



Centenary University has been helping students achieve their personal and professional goals for over 157 years.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

To be the intellectual, economic, & cultural Heart of the Skylands region.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Centenary University delivers accredited degree programs and other dynamic learning experiences to prepare students for regional and global professions of critical thought and purposeful action within a supportive environment immersed in a culture of service.

### **FLEXIBILITY & ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

With traditional, online, evening and accelerated courses, Centenary students have the flexibility to build their studies around their lives. Our diverse student body thrives in a demanding, yet collaborative learning environment. With a 13 to 1 student-to-faculty ratio, our professors, staff, and administrators know their students. They provide the individualized attention needed to ensure success — from emotional well-being to academic support to career development, including internships with some of New Jersey's top employers.

### **WE VALUE SERVICE**

Centenary also upholds a tradition of promoting service to others as a critical component of higher education — a core principle since our founding in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church. We develop professionals that employers desire, and leaders that communities need.

## ABOUT CENTENARY UNIVERSITY



### **CENTENARY UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)**

#### **Communication**

Communicate verbally, in writing, and visually in ways that indicate an understanding of diverse audiences, genres, and mediums

#### **Critical Thinking**

Critically and creatively apply knowledge to evaluate, synthesize, connect, and critique qualitative and quantitative information across disciplines

#### **Information Literacy**

Locate, evaluate, integrate, and cite properly vetted qualitative and quantitative evidence

#### **Diversity/Global Citizenship**

Integrate and apply knowledge from multiple perspectives using integrity, social responsibility, and ethical behavior and problem solving required for a diverse global society

#### **Collaboration**

Work thoughtfully and respectfully with culturally and socially diverse individuals and groups

## CENTENARY UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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David Dallas, *3rd Vice Chair*  
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Joyce Hansen  
Giovanna Kanu  
Dr. Denise Littleton  
Frederick A. Mangione '93/15 HA  
Muriel F. Millman

Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06  
Esther A. Poulsen  
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Robert M. Weinstein, Ph.D

### EMERITUS

Wolfgang Gstattenbauer '84/13 HA, *Chair Emeritus*

---

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Devon Paffendorf '10/11, *President*  
Angie Desai '07, *First Vice President*  
Brooke Smith Westenberger '13, *Second Vice President*  
William McNeir '14, *Recording Secretary*  
Faith Hyndman '63, *Corresponding Secretary*  
Vita Romanelli-Young '78/80, *Treasurer*  
Angela Rodriquez Moore '90, *Alumni Trustee*  
Yolanda Sheffield Williams '06, *Immediate Past President*  
Nancy Johns Paffendorf '79/81/06, *Nominating Committee Chairperson*

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Carol Valentine Allen '72/74  
Isaiah Anderson '23  
Audrey Hines Bonaparte-Watts '78  
Justin Dalcourt '19  
Cara Gibson-Gallop '10/12  
Margarita Snead Gravesande '85/14  
Lauren Hope Kreeger-Windrow '10

Jacqueline McRae Jones-Banks '04/06  
Melissa Mandas '95  
Sandile C. Manzini '11  
Edward Medow '14  
Onoshope Itunoya-Musa '24  
Tamiko Scian '96

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jenna Glinko '23/25    Alexandra Zeich

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Rochelle Makela-Goodman '97 and Robert Goodman  
Dr. Ronald and Mrs. Merri Millman  
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Hudson Farms  
James on Main  
Jen Vance  
Jenna O'Connor '16  
Jersey Ninja Warriors  
Jessica Albanese '20  
Katherine Broda Booth '14  
Kendra Scott  
Kimberly Tanis '96/02  
Kristina Michele Salon  
Land of Make Believe  
Lentini Farms  
Longwood Gardens  
Mama's Café Baci  
Mattar's Bistro  
Michael Catapano '92 and Kimberly Elliott Catapano '91  
Michael Paul  
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NJ Battle Zones  
NJ Devils  
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NY Red Bulls  
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## SPECIAL TRIBUTES

**Acrisure congratulates this year's Honorees and is proud to support Centenary University's scholarship fundraiser**

**Congratulations to all of the honorees. I am pleased to support Centenary University.  
- Dr. Denise M. Littleton**

**Ronetco Supermarkets, Inc. is proud to support Centenary University and congratulates the honorees. We are Partners in Caring for our neighbors, families, homes, and communities.**

**Visions Federal Credit Union supports Centenary University and its students!**

**Sovereign Insurance is a proud supporter of Centenary University. Congratulations to Dr. Tal Ben-Sharar, Michael B. Lavery and Erbach Communications Group, 2025 Gold Dome Recipients!**

**I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to Michael Lavery for the time he has dedicated for many years to numerous organizations to help make the Town of Hackettstown a premier location to conduct business and a tremendous community to live in. The recognition that Mike is receiving is well deserved.**

**-Paul Sterbenz**

**Congratulations to all Gold Dome Honorees, and wishing you all much success in your future!  
- Esther Poulsen, Trustee**

**Congratulations to the 2025 Gold Dome Honorees. We support Centenary University and its students! Rev. Douglas & Angela Moore - First Baptist Church of Whitesboro**

**Clozetivity of NJ would like to congratulate this year's Gold Dome Award recipients!**

**It's wonderful to see Mike receive this award. Your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring and so well deserved. I'm proud to call you my friend. - Randy May**

**Congratulations to the Gold Dome Honorees, and wishing you all much success in your future!  
- Les Aron, Trustee**

**Congratulations to the 2025 Gold Dome Honorees! Happy to support Centenary University!  
Bob Weinstein, Trustee**

**Blue Ridge Lumber supports Centenary University. Congratulations to the Gold Dome Honorees!**

**Thank you to Norm Worth and WRNJ for their unwavering support of Centenary University.  
- Jordan Glatt**

**Proud to be a Longtime Supporter of  
Centenary University's Annual Scholarship Fundraiser**  
*Congratulations to the 2025 Gold Dome Honorees!*



**Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar,**  
Director of the Master of Arts in Happiness Studies

**Michael B. Lavery,**  
Attorney at Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen

**Erbach Communications Group**

We applaud their lasting contributions to Centenary University  
and their unwavering dedication to student success and innovation.

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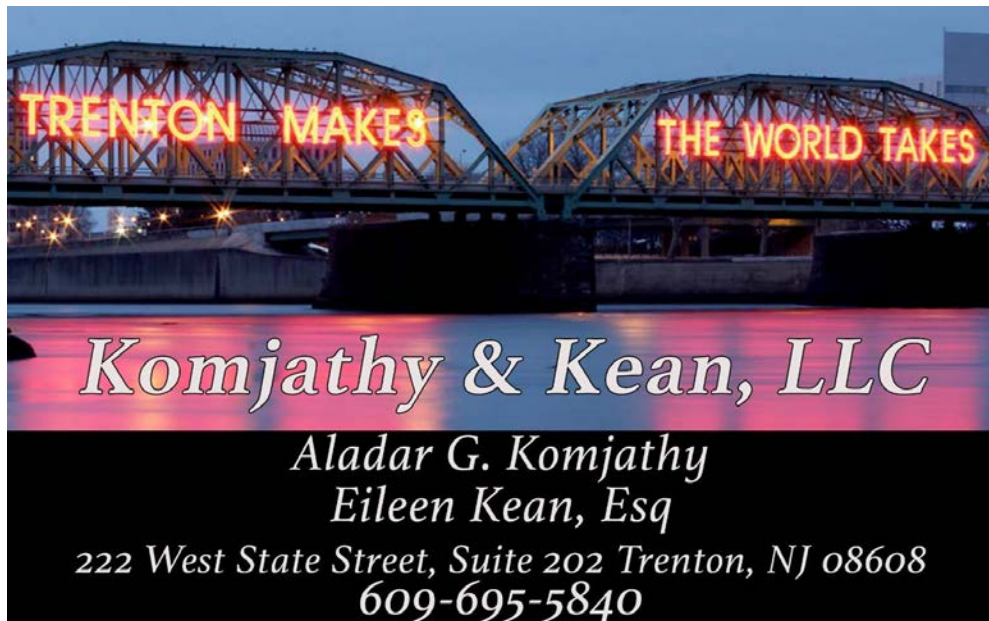
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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**MICHAEL LAVERY**



# CONGRATULATIONS

2025 GOLD DOME HONOREES

DR. TAL BEN-SHAHAR

ERBACH COMMUNICATIONS

AND OUR OWN

COMMISSIONER MICHAEL B LAVERY

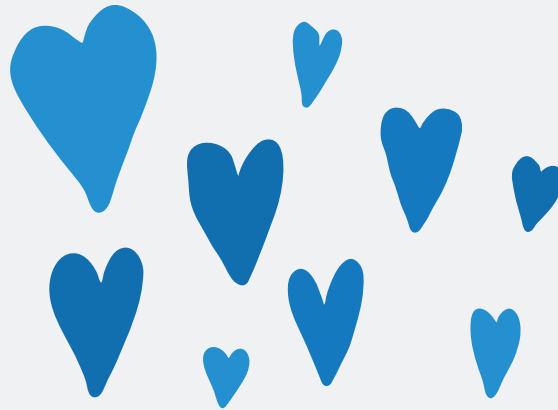


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the good appreciates.”***

Tal Ben-Shahar

Congratulations, Tal. We appreciate all the ways  
you make the world a happier place.

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
MICHAEL LAVERY!**

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CENTENARY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING:

# A NIGHT OUT AT THE SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS

**SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS VS. TRI-CITY VALLEYCATS**

**Saturday, June 28**

**Skylands Stadium, 94 Championship Place, Augusta, NJ**

**First Pitch: 6:35 pm with President Dr. Dale Caldwell**

**\$30 per person and includes box seat ticket by the first base line,  
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**Night Out at the ballpark!**



**Registration Required!**

**Register by June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**[centu.org/scm25](http://centu.org/scm25)**

**Questions? Alumni**

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# **SAY HELLO TO SUMMER!**

**CENTENARY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI SHORE EVENT**

**AT BAR ANTICIPATION**  
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**703 16TH AVENUE | LAKE COMO, NJ**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 19 | 2-6PM**

**Optional: \$17 for BBQ & drink specials**

**Beverages:** Cash Bar - Discounted drink prices and specials

**Food:** The All-American BBQ service from 2:30pm to 5pm

**21+ to attend & must have valid ID to enter**

**CU at the Centenary Cabana!**



**\*PRE REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED: [HTTPS://CENTU.ORG/BAR-A25](https://centu.org/bar-a25)**

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Congratulations Michael Lavery on receiving Centenary University's highest achievement, the Gold Dome Award. This is a testament to your hard work and dedication. Best wishes for continued success!



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*Congratulations! Keep up the great work.*

Giovanna Kanu



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To the esteemed Gold Dome Awardees,  
our deepest congratulations on your  
outstanding achievements. We are  
incredibly grateful for your contributions.



Our profound  
appreciation also  
goes to the  
Advancement team:  
**Elizabeth Freeman**  
**Jenna O'Connor**  
**Michael Tichy**  
**Jen Vance**

whose behind-the-  
scenes efforts made  
this evening so  
spectacular.

*Jordan Glatt*

*We extend our sincerest  
congratulations to all of this  
year's distinguished honorees!*

Dr and Mrs. Ronald and Merri Millman

SAVE THE DATE  
OCTOBER 11, 2025



# ALUMNI & FAMILY DAY



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IN RECOGNITION OF  
THE 2025 GOLD DOME  
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GOLD DOME SUPPORTERS

Marie D. Suozzo PC  
Attorney-at-Law

JOINS CENTENARY  
UNIVERSITY IN  
HONORING THE 2025  
**GOLD DOME  
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

*WE WISH EVERY SUCCESS TO  
THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS  
SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS.*

Marie D. Suozzo , Esq.  
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Jenna O'Connor  
PHOTOGRAPHY



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Congratulations Michael Lavery on receiving Centenary University's highest achievement, the Gold Dome Award. This is a testament to your hard work and dedication. Best wishes for continued success!

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*Congratulations*

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CONGRATULATIONS TO  
EACH OF THE HONOREES

LINDA VAN WINKLE WATKINS '62  
& SKIP WATKINS

**Hackettstown  
Medical Center**

is honored to support  
the Gold & Glitter Annual  
Scholarship Event, as we  
celebrate over 50 years of  
dedicated service to the  
Hackettstown community.




Congratulations to

**Michael B. Lavery Esq.**

on this well deserved honor!



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A big congratulations to  
Michael B. Lavery,  
Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar, and  
ERBACH Communications  
Group on being named  
this year's Gold Dome  
recipients at Centenary  
University!

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## Cyclone Dining by Sodexo is proud to sponsor the 2025 Glitter & Gold Gala.

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