



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 17, 2013

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University of Saint Joseph Nursing Professor Wins Teaching Excellence Award



Credit: Tim Coffey Photography

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – **Janet Knecht, M.S.N., assistant professor of Nursing at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has recently been selected as the 2012 - 2013 recipient of the Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award.** A resident of Simsbury, Conn., Professor Knecht earned her M.S.N. from Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, Pa.) and a B.S. from York College of Pennsylvania. Currently completing her dissertation for her Ph.D. in nursing at the University of Connecticut, she has been teaching at the University of Saint Joseph since 2008. As the winner of the Stack Award, Professor Knecht will deliver the Convocation address at the start of the fall semester on August 29.

The Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award carries a proud tradition at the University of Saint Joseph in recognizing members of the faculty who have made outstanding contributions to student learning. In essence, this honor celebrates the very best in teaching - bringing a depth of scholarship to the classroom that inspires students and fosters academic achievement.

In making this award presentation, USJ Provost Michelle M. Kalis, Ph.D. remarked, “Professor Janet Knecht is a highly-respected member of the faculty and teaches in one of the largest degree programs offered at the University of Saint Joseph, combining her professional and patient care experience to enhance her instruction. She has a real passion for teaching, and provides a classroom environment which recognizes the needs of her students’ learning styles. She uses a variety of teaching strategies such as video and audio presentations, evidence-based research papers, and case studies to stimulate student learning. Generous with her time and talents, Professor Knecht offers service-learning experiences, enabling students to apply theory to practice. Whether in the campus classroom or the community clinic conducting health screenings, Professor Knecht provides students with a holistic learning environment which emphasizes service to others.”

USJ students who nominated Professor Knecht for the Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award offered high praise: “She is inspirational in her teaching methods but is also very supportive and available to her students. After each of her classes there is always a group of students waiting to talk with her.” Another student noted, “Professor Knecht provides interactive “real-life” case studies, encouraging students to look deeper into a situation and pull out details needed to provide safe uncompromised care for their patients. She truly wants students to succeed.”

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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