



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

---

## CONNECTICUT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 27, 2013**

Contact: Cynthia Whitcomb, Associate Vice President of Marketing, Media and Communications

Telephone: 860.231.5387

Email: [cwhitcomb@usj.edu](mailto:cwhitcomb@usj.edu)

## ***University of Saint Joseph Lecture Examines Guidelines and Interventions Related to Autism Spectrum Disorders***

***First presentation in the Mercy Lecture Series will feature USJ professors John Molteni and Deirdre Fitzgerald***

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – Two professors from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will discuss evidence-based practices related to autism spectrum disorders at a lecture on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 11 a.m. in The Bruyette Athenaeum's Second Floor Reception Room, located on the university's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. Admission, which is open to the public, is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Friday, April 5. Contact Stephen Kumnick, manager of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations, at 860-231-5323 or [alumni@usj.edu](mailto:alumni@usj.edu).



This presentation will feature John Molteni, Ph.D., BCBA-D, director of the Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies, and Deirdre Fitzgerald, Ph.D., BCBA-D, director of the Graduate Program in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis, who will lead an interactive discussion focused on:

- autism spectrum disorders
- applied behavior analysis
- guidelines for determining evidence-based practices
- behavior analytic interventions to address core deficits of an autism spectrum disorder



Autism is a group of developmental brain disorders, collectively called autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The term "spectrum" refers to the wide range of symptoms, skills, and levels of impairment, or disability, that children with ASD can have. Some children are mildly impaired by their symptoms, but others are severely disabled. ASD is diagnosed according to guidelines listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental*

*Disorders*, which currently defines five disorders as ASD:

- Autistic disorder (classic autism)
- Asperger's disorder (Asperger syndrome)
- Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified
- Rett's disorder (Rett syndrome)
- Childhood disintegrative disorder (CDD).

This session in USJ's Mercy Lecture Series, is sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and designed to offer alumni and the community exclusive, thought-provoking lectures on topics that dominate today's headlines. Each lecture features faculty and alumni from the University of Saint Joseph.

The Mercy Lecture Series continues with two additional presentations:

May 7, 2013 at 11 a.m.

“Tune Up Your Nutrition for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

Mercy Hall, Crystal Room

Anne Davis, Ph.D., R.D., Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics

June 4, 2013 at 11 a.m.

“Building Bridges between the Past and Present”

Mercy Hall, Crystal Room

Mary Mitchell, BA '90, M'94, DAA'12, Reminiscence Consultant

Mary-Jane Eisen, MA'91, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology

# # #

*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](http://www.usj.edu).*

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue ♦ West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 ♦ Tel: 860.231.5334 ♦ Fax: 860.233.5695