



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The University of Saint Joseph presents Mercy Lecture:
“Expanding the Scope of Scientific Research-based Practice for Individuals with
Autism through Applied Behavior Analysis”**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.



WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (March 28, 2014) – The University of Saint Joseph will present a Mercy Lecture entitled, “Expanding the Scope of Scientific Research-based Practice for Individuals with Autism through Applied Behavior Analysis” on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. The lecture, featuring Deirdre Fitzgerald, Ph.D., BCBA-D and John Molteni Ph.D., BCBA-D, will be held in the Bruyette Athenaeum, Second Floor Reception Room, at the University’s West Hartford Campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. The lecture is open to the public; tickets are \$25 and include lunch. To make a reservation, contact Steve Kumnick at skumnick@usj.edu or 860.231.5323.

The lecture will address the move to common core state standards, new mastery testing, and how continued reliance on scientifically research-based interventions (SRBI) require precision in the teaching of special needs learners. Advances in the behavioral treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and the development of effective home and school programming for such learners will also be discussed, with an emphasis on the current research collaborations of faculty, students, and community sites.

John Molteni, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is director of the Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies, and chair of the department of Special Education at USJ. Deirdre Fitzgerald, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is director of USJ’s new Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis master’s program, graduate certificate, and supervised experience programs. She oversees programs that provide specialized training to analyze and respond effectively to the acute needs of “unique and vastly underserved populations.”

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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, visit our website at www.usj.edu.

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