

High Impact Learning Gives Students an Edge

THE **AUTORINO**
CENTER
FOR THE **ARTS**
AND HUMANITIES

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
SPRING 2016
WWW.USJ.EDU/ARTS

All performances take place in the
Bruyette Athenaeum's Hoffman
Auditorium unless noted. For tickets
and information, contact:
The Frances Driscoll Box Office
Monday - Friday:
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
860.231.5555
www.tickets.usj.edu

Follow us at
www.facebook.com/AutorinoCenter

For current and upcoming exhibitions
at the Art Museum, University of Saint
Joseph, visit www.usj.edu/artmuseum

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday:
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE

11th Annual Saint Patrick's Celebration Concert
Ringrose, Freeman & Friends, featuring All-Ireland
Champion accordion player John Whelan & The Griffith
Academy of Dance

March 13

1:30 p.m. Irish brunch & Guinness bar

2:30 p.m.

\$28 adults | \$25 seniors | \$15 students



St. Patrick's Day

Queenes Companye Student Production

Romeo & Juliet

April 7-9

7:30 p.m.

\$10 adults | \$5 seniors and students



Exit 12 Dance

Exit 12 Dance Company: *The Odyssey*

April 16, 17

April 16 at 7:00 p.m., April 17 at 2:00 p.m.

\$20 adults | \$17 seniors | FREE for veterans and students



Refugee

From Refugee Camp to Project - Hip-hop dance

April 22

7:30 p.m.

\$20 adults | \$17 seniors | \$12 students



Trash Dance

USJ Dance Ensemble: Spring Show

April 23

7:30 p.m.

\$12 adults | \$10 seniors | \$5 students

**Trash Dance by Allison Orr, Forklift Dance Works -
documentary film**

April 26

7:00 p.m.

FREE

University of Saint Joseph | 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
Phone 860.232.4571 | Fax 860.231.8396 | www.usj.edu

#iwillusjct      @usjct





Mary Mitchell accepting her Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012

Answering a Need Sustaining a Passion

THE WALTER I. AND
MARY P. MITCHELL '90, M'94, DAA'12
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Mary Pringle Mitchell '90, M'94, DAA'12 returned to college in mid-life after raising three children and working in the family business. Little did she know her return to academia would launch a long and fulfilling career in Gerontology.

In appreciation of her USJ education and to serve the next generation of professionals, Mitchell established the Walter I. and Mary P. Mitchell '90, M'94, DAA'12 Endowed Scholarship. Created in memory of her husband, Walter, the scholarship answers a societal need by supporting USJ students preparing to work in Gerontology as nurses and social workers.

“There is a need to have professionals who understand the aging population and currently there is a shortage of people in the field,” Mitchell said.

Read more about Mary's career as a gerontologist with an expertise in personal narratives on page 36.

To support USJ or to establish a scholarship that reflects your passion, contact Maggie Pinney '95, associate vice president for Institutional Advancement, at 860.231.5397 or mpinney@usj.edu.

OUTLOOK Magazine

Winter 2016

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Laura Sheehan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Patti-Ann Barry
President Rhona Free, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Marone '15
William Schubert

DESIGN
Beth Ann Strong

PHOTOGRAPHY
Patti-Ann Barry
Keyvan Behpour
Sandy Birner
Caitlin Fitzgerald
Tom Kutz
Steven Laschever
John Marinelli
Steve McLaughlin
Spencer Sloan
Beth Ann Strong

Outlook is published twice a year for alumni, students, families, and friends of USJ. Opinions expressed in *Outlook* are those of the individual authors, not necessarily those of the University.

OUTLOOK
University of Saint Joseph
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

The University of Saint Joseph, including the Gengras Center and the School for Young Children, prohibits discrimination against any persons on account of their race, color, religious creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability, or physical disability in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and employment practices.

On the cover: Vanessa Sigalas Dangremond (left), Michelle Rowland '16 (center), and Linda Roth (right) at Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

In this issue

For bonus photos and content, go to Outlook Online: www.usj.edu/outlook.

Features

3



Giving Students an Edge in the Job Market

12



Community By Design: The Legacy of the Olmsted Brothers

Stories

2



President's Insights

10



Living Laboratory: USJ's Grasslands Habitat

16



Faculty Profile: Afghanistan Through the Eyes of Dorothy Keller M'85, C'97, DAA'99

18



Reflections on Reunion 2015

20



Inauguration of President Rhona Free, Ph.D.

21



Digital Citizenship: Spreading Empathy in a Digital World

24



Celebrating Our Heritage — An Unexpected Journey

26



Campus Snapshot

28



Blue Jay Sports

34



Alumni News

44



End Note: The Growing Case for a Women's College Education

Outlook is published by the Office of Marketing, Media, and Communications: Laura Sheehan, Associate Vice President of Marketing, Media, and Communications; Keith Knowles, Digital Marketing Manager; Kathie Kentfield, Web Site Coordinator; Beth Ann Strong, Manager of Publications and Design; Patti-Ann Barry, Communications Coordinator/Writer; Caitlin Fitzgerald, Communications Coordinator/Digital Media; Joel DeJong, Graphic Designer; and Jennifer Dzierzawski, Marketing Coordinator. The office can be reached by phone: 860.231.5602 and E-mail: marketing@usj.edu.

President's Insights

Dear Friends,

At the start of my tenure as President, I was asked (more than once!): "What is your vision for the University of Saint Joseph?" It was a question I could not then answer. Rather, I needed to learn more about the University — its people, programs, and values — before I could respond to such an essential question.

After seven months of listening and learning, my answer has taken the form of a question, which I now pose to you: "What makes our University distinctive?" In a region rich with higher education options, how does USJ stand out? Identifying and celebrating our distinctive characteristics provide the framework for the University's future.

From my perspective, these traits exist within the University's original mission and intent. The history page of our website tells us:

In 1932, the Sisters of Mercy of Connecticut set out to establish the first liberal arts college for women in the Hartford area. They were determined to develop a curriculum that: balanced professional studies with the liberal arts; focused on service to others; and infused the Catholic intellectual tradition while welcoming students of all ages, races, religions, and cultures.

Thus, the path forward begins with a look back. To thrive in today's competitive environment, we must reinforce our value. While there are many liberal arts colleges that provide professional preparation, there are very few for women (40), and even fewer that infuse Catholic intellectual tradition in a way that is inclusive and welcoming to students of all faiths (10). USJ is one of a handful of schools that offer a women's undergraduate experience with a commitment to service and an emphasis on experiential education — in a setting that blends a pastoral campus with a vibrant urban area.

The articles and news contained within this issue of *Outlook* celebrate that distinctiveness in a few of its many forms. I invite you to read, reflect, and respond. Send your thoughts on USJ's distinctiveness to outlook@usj.edu. We will find a way to share them as we celebrate the value of this one-of-a-kind institution.

Regards,

Rhona Free, Ph.D.
President



GIVING STUDENTS AN EDGE IN THE JOB MARKET

High-impact Learning Offers the Experience Employers Seek in New Hires

Staff Reporting



Great grades no longer cut it — graduates need something more to rise above stiff competition for jobs. Today, most employers seek candidates with “real-world” experience that extends beyond the boundaries of a college campus.

According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ 2015 survey, “Eighty-eight percent of employers think that it is important for colleges and universities to ensure that all students are prepared with the skills and knowledge needed to complete an applied learning project.” The majority of employers say they are more likely to consider a candidate who has participated in an applied learning experience.

Enter the internship, where students work in corporations and nonprofits in exchange for the opportunity to develop skills, build confidence, and make professional connections. In addition to internships, other applied learning experiences include clinical placements, student teaching, field or co-op experiences, and research partnerships between faculty and students. Together, they compose a critical component of the higher education experience: high-impact learning.

This trend, however, is not new for USJ and its students — since its founding in 1932, the University’s educational philosophy has encompassed “learning by doing,” as well as “giving by helping.” The school’s administration and faculty have continually complemented rigorous classroom learning with community engagement — for service and skill building.

President Rhona Free, Ph.D., sees USJ’s success in this area as a distinct advantage: “Ninety-five percent of USJ students participate in high-impact learning during the course of their education, which gives them a distinct advantage as they move from school to career. Many studies show that employers are looking for the types of skills that these opportunities provide, including the ability to work as a team and experience in a research group.”

“We are particularly fortunate with our close proximity to Hartford. Our students have ready access to numerous businesses and organizations, as well as deep ties in the community through our extensive alumni network.”

Additionally, opportunities at the University’s lab schools (School for Young Children and the Gengras Center School), along with research at the School of Pharmacy and community-based programs via USJ’s partnership with the Wellness Center, provide a plethora of options. On any given day, USJ students head out to schools, hospitals, large corporations, and small non-profits to apply skills, build resumes, and network with industry experts.

In many instances, the USJ internship turns into a job offer, like it did for Hilary Kasprzak M’15. A graduate of the Counseling program, Kasprzak’s internship at Wheeler Clinic evolved into a full-time position as a clinician. Another recent example: Kaleigh Ligus ’15, a member of the Public Health program’s inaugural class, was hired into a professional position following her internship at UConn’s Center for Aging.

“This is truly one of the ways the University of Saint Joseph stands out,” said Free. “The combination of what students learn in the classroom and the skills and connections they gain in the professional setting lead to career success. It’s common for many of our students to have a job in hand at the time of graduation.”



▲ Michelle Rowland ’16 (center) at The Wadsworth Athenaeum

USJ STUDENTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

WADSWORTH ATHENAEUM

Working side-by-side with curators at the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, **Michelle Rowland ’16** learned firsthand what goes on behind the scenes at an internationally renowned cultural institution. The Art History major, who secured a coveted internship through the museum’s close working relationship with Professor Dorothy Keller M’85, C’97, M.Ed., appreciates the opportunity to apply what she is learning at USJ in a two-semester internship.

Under the guidance of Vanessa Sigalas Dangremond, research fellow for European and Decorative Arts, Rowland conducted independent research on select artworks and collections. She continued other curators’ research pertaining to critical controversies and history surrounding a work of art.

Rowland also edited online material for virtual sources that accompanied a gallery or a collection.

“The internship is a bridge between school and the professional world entailing important documentation and art historical research. It is far from what many people envision — an intern filing and Xeroxing or standing guard in the galleries,” Dangremond explained. “Seeing Michelle’s excitement working directly with art and decorative objects is inspiring. It’s clear she has a true passion for museum work.”

Rowland, who was accepted into Sotheby’s prestigious master’s in Art Business program, valued the resources available to her at the Wadsworth and the opportunity to hone her skills. “Working in a museum is liberating and exciting. It affirmed my passion and career choice — I love researching and being surrounded by art,” she said.

“This internship prepared me for bigger challenges as I transition my knowledge and skills to the real world.”



▲ Estada Laurore '16 (right) with Wendy Black-Nasta

ARTISTS FOR WORLD PEACE

High-impact learning has the power to propel a life's work, discovered **Estada Laurore '16**, a Women's Studies major. Through her internship with Artists for World Peace (AFWP), a non-profit organization serving impoverished African villagers, Laurore found her calling: humanitarian work.

"I'm changing lives," she said, "and feel honored to serve this cause."

Tasked with negotiating the shipment of critical supplies to Africa, Laurore's responsibilities included cataloging furniture, cribs, eyeglasses, sunglasses, bicycles, and wheel chairs, as well as dental chairs slated for a new dental clinic in Tanzania under construction by AFWP. She also supported the organization's other sites, including a hospital and eye clinic in Kibosho-Umbwe.

Mentored by AFWP's founder, Wendy Black-Nasta, Laurore saw the culmination of a 20-year effort inspired by passion and compassion. Black-Nasta, who is also a jewelry artist, worked tirelessly to create schools, safe houses, health care and education facilities for 22 different countries. And the appreciation goes both ways: "I'm so grateful to Estada," Black-Nasta said, "and to hundreds who volunteer their time and talent to the most vulnerable among us."

HARTFORD HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

"Many people think pharmacists only count pills," explained Dayne Laskey, Pharm.D., assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration. "In the emergency department, pharmacists work side-by-side with doctors and nurses at patients' bedsides. Evaluating and administering medications must be fast and accurate. A difference of a few minutes can be critical."

As a Pharmacy preceptor, Laskey mentored **Ashley Lane, Pharm.D. '16** and **Dan McGrath, Pharm.D. '16**,

▼ Dan McGrath, Pharm.D. '16 fills medication as classmate Ashley Lane, Pharm.D. '16 and mentor Dayne Laskey, Pharm.D., observe.



both in their final year at USJ's School of Pharmacy. The students agreed that hands-on learning is vital and their curriculum requires participation in acute settings, communities, institutions, and ambulatory care.

"Internships integrate our classroom learning into experiential practice and underscore that patient safety is primary. Preventing an adverse drug event is the driving force behind the growth of emergency medicine pharmacy," said McGrath.

Noreen Todd, M.H.A., R.Ph., Coordinator of Experiential Education, said the School currently places students at over 400 sites nationwide for experiential learning. There are over 600 pharmacists who act as preceptors for the students. Each of the approximately 250 students in the program will complete 11 rotations during the 3-year program.

In addition to the many opportunities for participatory learning, Lane acknowledges the inspiration and encouragement she receives from the distinguished and devoted faculty.

"My professors support me in every way, both in the classroom and in real world settings. I feel solid in my skills and see my dreams becoming a reality."



▲ Judyta Leary M'11 (right) sits with Amanda Butler M'17 (center) and a student from New Britain High School.

NEW BRITAIN HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni serving as mentors often discover special meaning in their roles, as did **Judyta Leary M'11**. Guiding a student intern from her own alma mater in their shared profession created "a bond similar to family, a 'sisterhood' from Saint Joe's," Leary said. When she welcomed **Amanda Butler M'17** to New Britain High School as a counseling intern this past semester, Leary recognized that she and Butler shared the same commitment to helping others that drew them both to the Counseling program at USJ.

"Students at Saint Joe's are encouraged to help others in all socioeconomic classes and that service opens their eyes and their hearts," Leary said. "A commitment to compassion in action helps students bloom. Students are like seeds and Saint Joe's the sunshine to the flower."

Leary's entry into New Britain High School, also as an intern, culminated in a full-time job as a behavior support specialist. After a series of related jobs within the region, she was invited back as a school counselor. Leary and members of the

high school's counseling team guided Butler in addressing the needs of the student population.

"Teens are at critical turning points in their lives, so it's especially meaningful to work with this age group as their actions have the potential to lay the foundation for their future," Butler said. "Interning has shown me I'm on the right professional path. I feel I'm really making a difference."

VOLUNTEERS FOR INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

A controller at Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union, **Darysabel Alamo '16** — an Accounting major in the Program

▼ Darysabel Alamo '16 reviews tax forms with Professor Marie Kulesza, CPA.



for Adult Learners at USJ — helped qualified Greater Hartford residents complete their taxes as part of her internship with Volunteers for Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Among the largest anti-poverty programs in the area, VITA serves roughly 8,000 low-income wage earners annually with free tax preparation, assisted by interns and volunteers.

"I learned a lot about customer service while networking with professionals in my field," said Darysabel. "Specialized training with IRS software, plus the IRS certification I received, is a boost to my resume. I can apply those skills at work, too, yet helping people is the main reward."

To optimize learning and position students for jobs, Professor Marie Kulesza, CPA, chair of Business Administration, said:

"Linking theory to real world practice gives students an edge to get jobs."

As a site coordinator for the VITA program, she trains students on campus and in the community, fulfilling her commitment to serve those in need and serving as a role model for her students as she champions a worthy cause.

HOME AND ABROAD

Huong Lam '16 came a long way to USJ, emigrating from Vietnam with her family at the age of 10. The senior Nursing major, who adheres to a holistic approach to health care, recently completed a dual rotation — one in cardiac telemetry at Saint Francis Hospital and another in child, adolescent and adult psychiatry at its Mount Sinai campus. “I aim to see both the psychological and physical issues within a patient’s diagnosis and provide the best care possible,” Lam said.

While she gained valuable skills from her clinical rotations, Lam identified her summer internship in Spain as her most meaningful experience. Working with nurses in Barcelona during the previous summer, Lam valued the opportunity to experience a different health care system. She embraced the chance to expand her skill set and adapt to new ways of treating patients. Rounding out the internship, Lam also spent time assisting at the Casa Ronald McDonald and a soup kitchen, Franciscanos Conventuales.

“I immersed myself in a culture where most people didn’t speak English and learned to communicate and interact with them. I may not have been able to get that experience from a local internship,” Lam said. “And the skills I learned in Barcelona will be useful in my career as a nurse.”

Looking back, Lam reflected on USJ’s strong sense of community, which continually supported her personal and professional growth. Relying on the benefits of a rigorous education and the opportunities for applied experiences gave her the best of both worlds — and Lam feels confident about the professional opportunities that await her.



▲ *Huong Lam '16 (right) reviews patient records at Saint Francis Hospital.*

HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL'S HEALTH CLINIC

Returning to USJ for graduate work in the Family Nurse Practitioner program was an easy decision for **Leah Swanson '09, M'17**.

“I got a terrific undergrad education at Saint Joe’s, so it was natural to come back. The University’s reputation for excellence within health care is also a big draw,” she said.

In addition to her coursework, Swanson works part-time as a surgical trauma nurse and attends a twice-weekly internship with Hartford Public Schools. “The program’s flexible hours, including online courses, make it manageable for my super-busy schedule,” said Swanson.

Under the guidance of Sandy Palmer, APRN, at Culinary Arts Academy, Swanson provided students with vaccines, sports physicals, nutritional guidance, vision tests, and more. “There’s no better learning than learning by doing and Sandy gives me the confidence to perform the duties of an APRN,” said Swanson.

MARY P. HINSDALE SCHOOL/WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alisha Nadeau M'17 sought to support herself and her four children after a divorce. Outside the work force for 12 years, she knew that her minimal experience did not position her competitively for employment, especially in uncertain economic times. Drawing on her compassion for children, a desire to work with special needs students, and a self-described “hefty dose of courage,” she entered USJ’s master’s program in Special Education. “A teacher’s hours fit well with my kids’ schedules and the

promise of a pension offers long-term financial security,” she explained, “but the driving force is that I really want to work with children, especially kids with challenges.”

With Winchester Public School’s tuition assistance program (designated school districts provide incentives for teacher education), Nadeau accepted an internship opportunity at Mary P. Hinsdale School teaching second graders, with a focus on special needs students.

“I got to interact each day with the school staff, faculty, and children and see firsthand how things work,” she said, “and I know that the internship on my resume will help me get a job.”

Lisa Sandstrom, director of student teaching and clinical experiences at USJ’s School of Education, said, “Internships prove invaluable for graduate students. They experience the latest research-based strategies in schools, work with a professional mentor, and develop the skills needed to excel in the classroom. It’s a win-win situation.”

▼ *Leah Swanson '09, M'17 and Sandy Palmer, APRN, at Culinary Arts Academy*



HARTFORD FOOD SYSTEM

Jocelyn Perez '16 wants to help feed hungry children in Connecticut and across America. Working toward a career as an advocate for food access in a non-profit agency, the Public Health major was thrilled to land an internship at Hartford Food System. There, she supported efforts fighting hunger and improving nutrition in Hartford’s low-income neighborhoods. “Every child should have access to healthy food,” said Perez. “Through this program, future generations will have healthier and happier lives.”

Developing a new skill set positions her competitively for a job in her chosen field.

“My internship gave me the skills that non-profits are seeking,” said Perez. “As I worked alongside educators and community organizers, I gained confidence in my ability to help.”

Public Health Program Director Katie Martin, Ph.D., agreed: “Placing students in internships is an integral part of the curriculum at USJ so students can gain real-world experiences and apply what they have learned in the classroom. Public Health students intern in a variety of settings from state and local health agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic research offices — and often, the internship leads directly to a job opportunity.”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

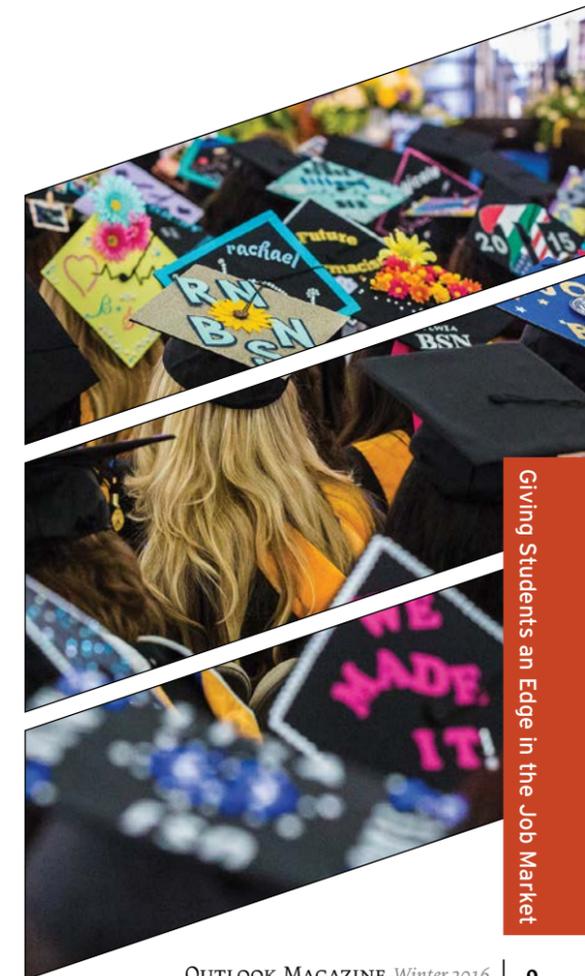
When she joined the USJ community in July, President Free readily identified the University’s high-impact learning opportunities as key to students’ success. “Today’s students want and

need to engage with the external community,” she said in the summer edition of *Outlook*.

“USJ is in the perfect place to enhance these opportunities, by creating additional programs that align with existing industries.”

As such, Free recently announced four new tracks in the Business Administration program that will connect student learning to business growth. Starting in fall 2016, students can tailor their Business degrees to non-profit management, marketing, health care management, or sports management — all to be connected to internships in related industries.

For more on USJ’s high-impact learning, watch www.outlook.usj.edu/HighImpactLearning.



Living Laboratory

USJ's Grasslands Project

Staff Reporting

A grassland habitat project, located behind the Chapel on USJ's main campus, serves to both protect the environment and provide valuable opportunities for student learning. Launched in September 2015, the project encourages the growth of native grasses, herbaceous plants, and shrubs – vital but declining natural resources – so that varied flora and fauna can thrive. The Grasslands Project is overseen by the University's department of Biology, with support from the office of Facilities.

Grasslands are among the most endangered habitats in Connecticut. They provide a natural environment for reproduction, feeding, and varied parts of the life cycles of birds and other wildlife. Their loss threatens the survival of vesper sparrows, upland sandpipers, eastern meadowlarks, and other species. Throughout history, grasslands have been maintained by natural events such as wildfires and flooding, which are now prevented or controlled to protect people and property in densely populated states. In the past, a multitude of large farms provided grassland habitats. Enhancing biodiversity (the foundation of ecosystems), grassland habitats serve a variety of feathered and furry creatures.

When she came to campus in July, President Rhona Free, Ph.D., and her husband, Peter Boardman, brought their passion for conservation with them. Their farm in eastern Connecticut (now managed by a resident caretaker) hosts a grassland habitat project that started in 1998.

As a board member of the Connecticut Audubon Society and former trustee to the Windham County Extension Council, Free has assisted in a variety of wildlife habitat restoration projects. Soon after settling on campus, she identified the lawn adjacent to the wooded area behind the Chapel as a prime location for a grassland habitat.

In addition to accessing her own experience, Free consulted with organizations dedicated full-time to conservation. "With the assistance of the Connecticut Audubon Society, conservation organizations, and state agencies to identify and implement best practices for this project, the habitat will enable sustainability," she said.

"This provides a living laboratory for students to obtain firsthand experience in the field, and will broaden USJ's programs related to the environment such as environmental health, habitat management, and conservation research."

Carol Millard '91, M.S., assistant dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences and assistant professor of Biology, worked to enhance the habitat. She relied on her 15-years of experience monitoring avian production and survivorship in the field — a national banding program with an emphasis on bird communities. Evaluating the water-retention areas adjacent to the habitat, Millard and USJ student Tara Vega '17 seeded the lawn with existing native grass species.

Leading an academic project to develop baseline data from the area, Kirsten Martin, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology, brought broad expertise in environmental science research. Interns associated with the project, Shanelle Haughton '16 and Vega, both Biology majors, completed baseline studies that determined and documented the presence of wildlife in the existing area. Involvement in this and similar projects with Martin inspired Haughton to pursue a career in environmental studies, one she had not considered before arriving to USJ. "I love gathering data in the field — then using and

analyzing it," she said. Future projects for students could include learning about plant communities, insects, and birds within their habitats.

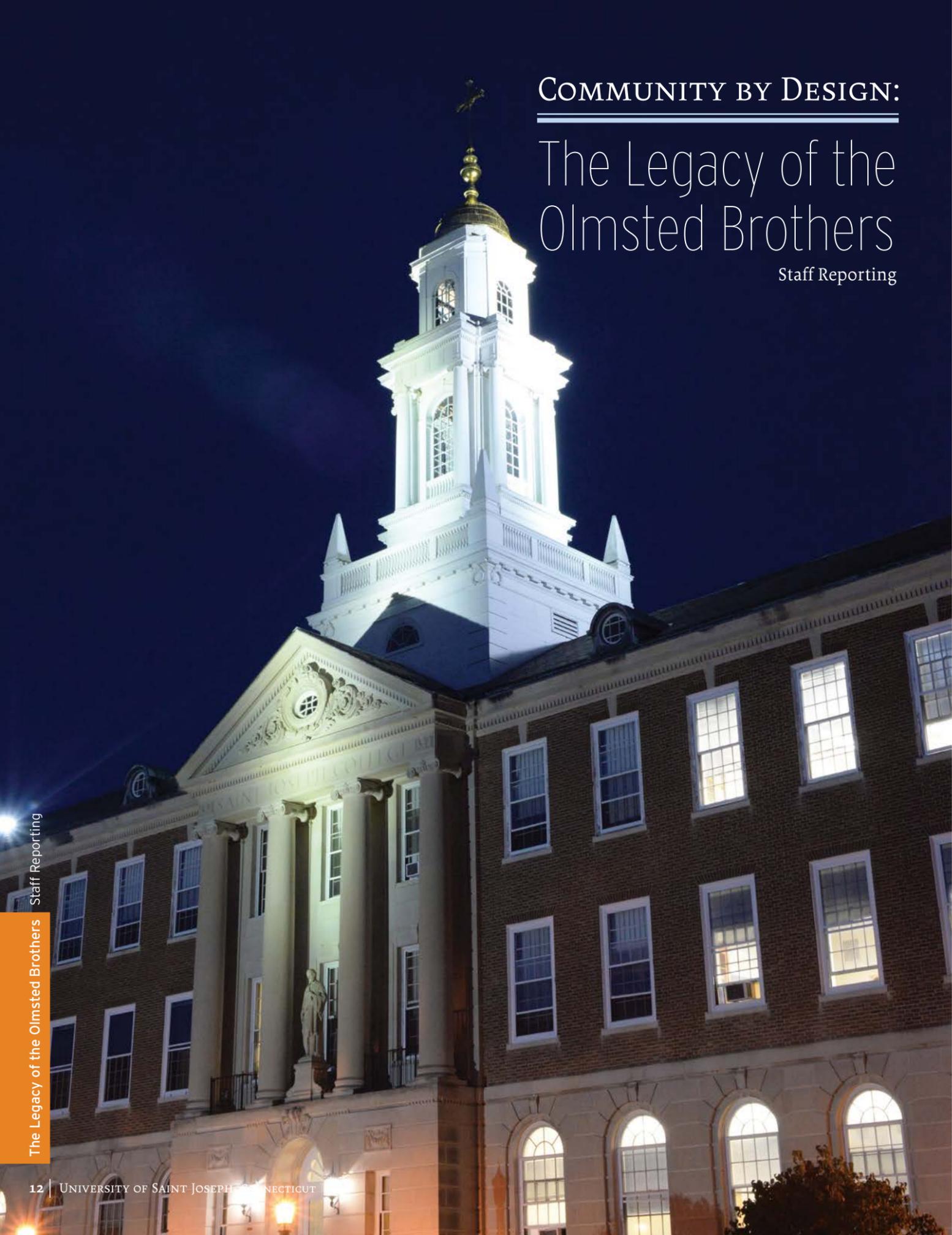
With the habitat restored, wildlife sightings will hopefully include robins and flickers in the spring and white-throated sparrows and bobolinks (small songbirds) in the fall. Andy Rzeznikiewicz, land manager for Connecticut Audubon Society Bird Conservation Center, said, "This meadow will create a landing pad, a kind of 'island of green' for migratory birds. The unmowed grasses hold insects for food and should support and attract more bees and butterflies, too, key for pollination. It's pretty amazing how nature recovers, once you give it a chance."

Pope Francis offered a relevant message about protecting the planet during his visit to America last fall, inviting "a dialog with all people about our common home." That discussion continues on campus as Biology students work to protect and preserve the natural habitat. 🌱



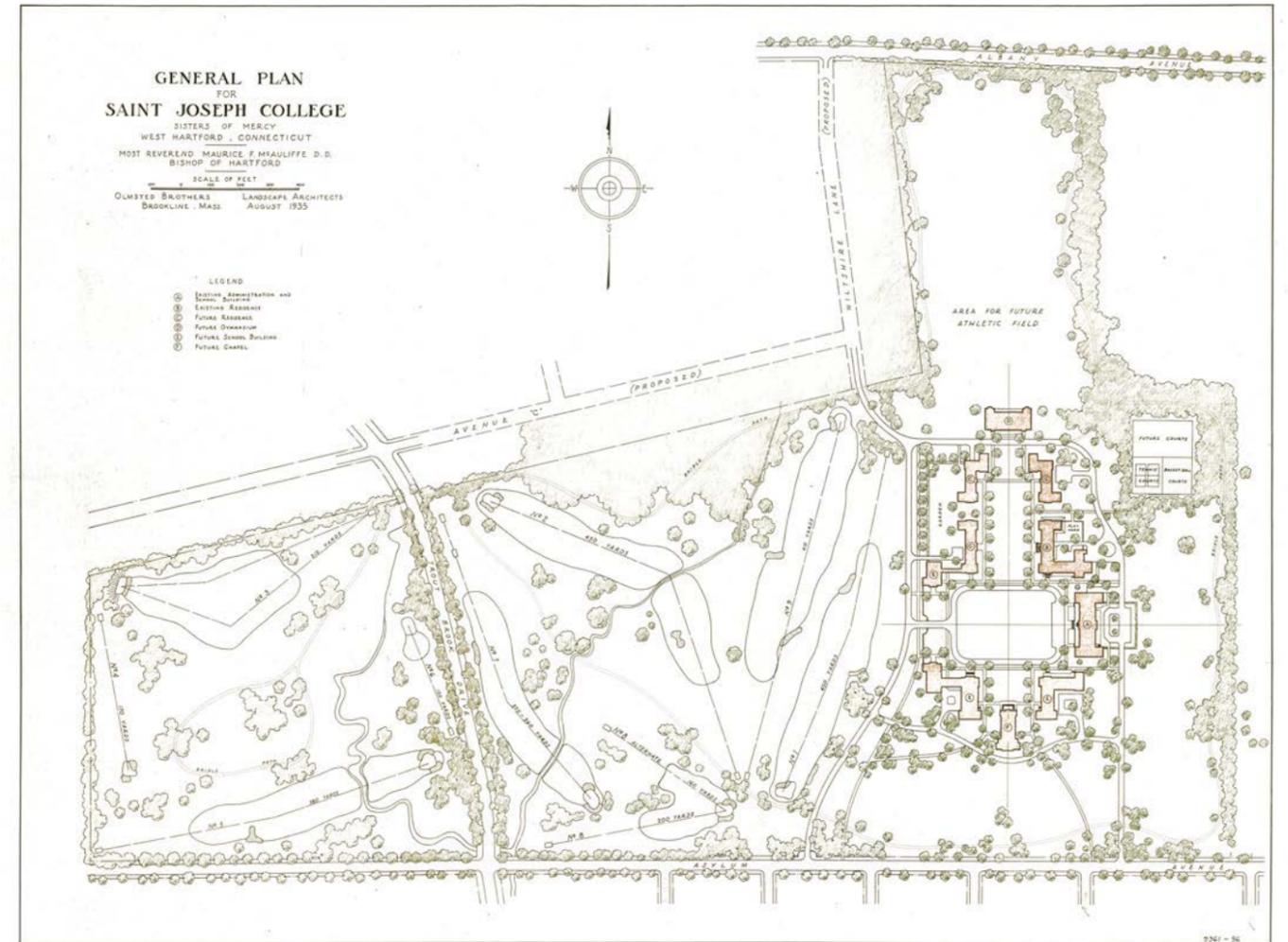
Shanelle Haughton '16, Dr. Kirsten Martin, and Tara Vega '17 at work in the Grasslands.





COMMUNITY BY DESIGN: The Legacy of the Olmsted Brothers

Staff Reporting



▲ The original landscape design, submitted in 1935. Courtesy of USJ Archives.

On a typical autumn evening, a shaft of light on a towering elm tree enlivens leaves of crimson and orange. The cupola atop McDonough Hall serves as a beacon of promise in the night sky. The lasting beauty of the University's campus, appreciated by so many throughout its 79-year existence, originated with one of America's foremost landscape design firms: The Olmsted Brothers. Known for their designs of Acadia National Park, Yosemite Valley, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and other iconic landmarks, the brothers created environments that celebrate the splendor of nature and the importance of communal engagement – hallmarks of our campus' design and function.

In 1935, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and John Charles Olmsted submitted a proposal to the founding Sisters of Mercy to design the landscape of the University (then Saint Joseph College), including specifications for irrigation, horticulture, and sites of key buildings.

Sons of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, they trained under their father, who designed parks and park systems throughout the United States, including New York's Central Park. Nature, Olmsted Sr. believed, was essential to life in the industrial age — for rejuvenating health and spirit, as well as fostering community engagement. The father's influence is evident in his sons' work.

The Olmsted Brothers' proposal was approved by Rosa McDonough, RSM, USJ's founding dean, following several revisions. Written correspondence suggests the firm was recommended by Reverend Joseph Griffin, who commissioned the firm to design the grounds of Hartford's Saint Thomas Seminary. The Olmsted's "Saint Joseph College" blueprint shows a total of nine buildings artfully arranged as a unified whole. The campus is nestled within softly curved roads and walkways, and several tree-lined quadrangles provide optimal space for community events.

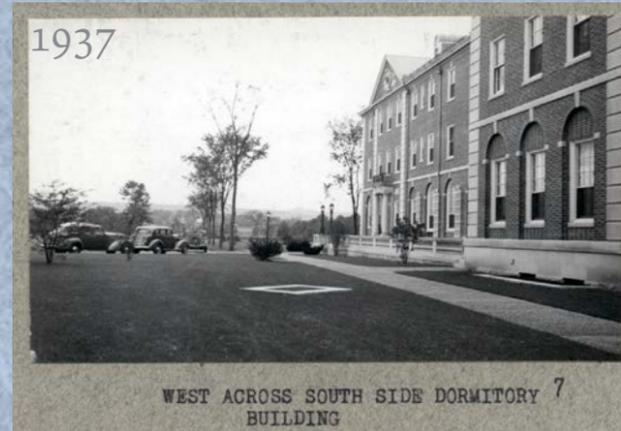
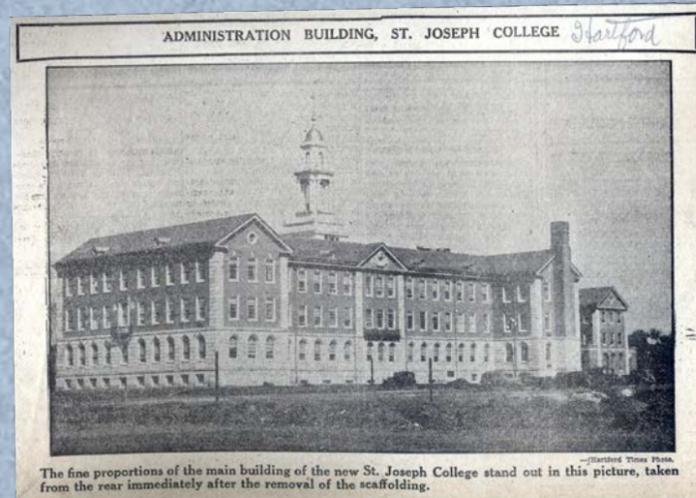
In keeping with the Olmsted design, the University's first two structures opened in 1936: the Administration and Science Building (McDonough Hall) and a building simply designated "Residence" (Mercy Hall). Since that time, the campus has added 17 buildings and expanded its reach beyond the West Hartford campus with the 2011 opening of the School of Pharmacy in downtown Hartford. The completion of the Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities and Lynch Hall in 2000 fulfilled the final aspect of the original blueprint.

Throughout its years of growth, the University has been mindful of the Olmsted's design and intent. All new structures adhere to their core principles of nature and community, as well as match the distinctive neo-Georgian architectural style. With an eye toward future growth, the University consulted EYP Architecture & Engineering to develop a campus master plan that "draws the pleasant character of the campus outward to the edges of the site, making the totality as appealing as its Olmsted-designed core."

Technological advancements instituted within any new or traditional structures require a special commitment, as well. President Rhona Free said,

"While continually positioned to provide students and faculty the 'next wave' of technological capabilities, the beauty and integrity of the campus landscape and buildings, a major attraction of the school, remain protected."

OUR CAMPUS: THEN AND NOW



OTHER OLMSTED BROTHER DESIGNED CAMPUSES

- Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania
- Indiana University, Indiana
- Johns Hopkins University, Maryland
- Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts
- Stanford University, California
- University of Chicago, Illinois
- University of Notre Dame, Indiana
- Vassar College, New York

For a full list of Olmsted campuses, see www.usj.edu/OlmstedCampuses.

IN THE AREA

The Olmsted brothers also designed Pope Park and Riverside Park in Hartford. 🌳

Archived photos courtesy of the National Park Service Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

Afghanistan Through the Eyes of Dorothy Keller

M'85, C'97, DAA'99
Professor and Chair, Fine Arts

By Patti-Ann Barry



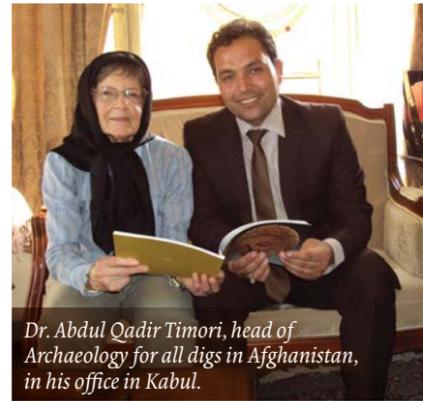
Bamiyan Valley, once the site of the world's largest Buddhas. Buddha's Niche (pictured on facing page) is above Keller's left shoulder.

To say that Dorothy Keller is determined, driven, and resourceful is simply stating the obvious.

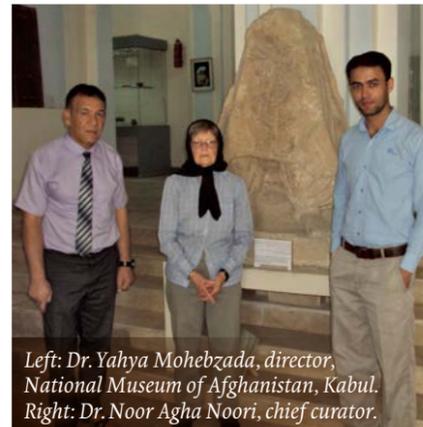
Her tenacity has compelled her to visit museums and remote archeological excavation sites throughout the world, seeking to understand the cultural context of numerous works of art. Her research has brought her to the mountains, deserts, and caves of the Middle East, Europe, the Far East, and Latin America. Over the years, her travels have included archeological digs at the Gate of Essenes in Israel with Reverend Bargil Pixner; at Palmyra, Syria with Khalid al-Assad; and in Thebes, Egypt, where she and her late husband, Deane Keller, discovered a cache of tombs while conducting research at the Ramesseum. So it should come as no surprise that after viewing "Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul" at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA) in 2009, she added Afghanistan to her long list of sites.



Dr. Omara Khan Masoudi, past director and current consultant for the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul.



Dr. Abdul Qadir Timori, head of Archaeology for all digs in Afghanistan, in his office in Kabul.



Left: Dr. Yahya Mohebzada, director, National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul. Right: Dr. Noor Agha Noori, chief curator.

"Once I saw the exhibit, knowing that Afghanistan was a crossroads connecting the ancient world, I had to explore the possibility of a visit," said Keller. "It's important to understand the culture and the history that goes with it."

Keller arranges to meet with museum directors, curators, and archeologists and undergoes extensive research before each trip. "I study the culture and customs, as well as familiarize myself with the locations and how to navigate," she said.

Ancient Afghanistan's Silk Road, named for the lucrative trade in Chinese silk, rare spices, and luxury goods, was one of the world's greatest crossroads of trade and cultural exchange connecting the East and West. "But its location was both a blessing and a curse," explained Keller. "The benefits accrued from trade and commerce were often rubbed out by the curse of being coveted for its strategic location." Keller's key objective was to study, observe, and discern how this location helped innovate and assimilate aesthetic principles observed in the art from the East and West.

The exhibit highlighted the discovery of the Silk Road treasures, which were missing for decades during years of warfare in Afghanistan. Thanks to the heroic staff of the Kabul Museum, the artifacts were secretly crated, placed in a secure bank vault, and hidden for 25 years. The crates were opened in 2004, revealing that the works had remained intact. Miraculously, the museum itself was restored after suffering extensive damage in 1994. While some pieces from the MMA exhibit are on display in Kabul, other artifacts are deemed too valuable and remain hidden.

"The artwork is really monumental. It demonstrates a diversity of many cultures and you get a sense that it needs to be preserved. It is not just about objects – it represents who we are and where we came from, a crucible of various cultures," said Keller.



Bamiyan Valley Buddha Niche, 174 ft. high, and Keller.



Right: Dr. Said Hasan, director of the Jihadi Museum, Herat, Afghanistan. Left: Shaikh Abdullah, chief curator of War Artifacts.

A highlight of Keller's trip was a visit to the remote Bamiyan Valley, situated on a branch of the silk route and once the site of the world's largest Buddhas. One sculpture towered at 174 feet and the other at nearly 115 feet. "Crafted in the sixth century," said Keller, "these were carved out of sandstone rock, with the entire mountain range as a sculpture field, an amalgam of religious and artistic traditions."

For centuries, before Islamic groups from the east had migrated to the central Afghanistan region, many travelers revered the Buddhas. In 2001, the Taliban destroyed the titanic statues as a means to advance the cause of Islamic fundamentalism, leaving behind two empty shells with large fragments strewn about the site. Some of the pieces were collected and stored in a small museum nearby and attempts are being made to restore the area. "This is still one of the most impressive sites and even though the Buddhas were not there physically, I could feel their presence in the silence of that cavernous space," said Keller. "They must have been majestic!" This is just one example of the tragedies brought on by war, Keller noted.

Keller paints a vivid picture of her travels to the nation's museums, shrines, and mosques, and does so with respect and awe: "Afghanistan has huge treasures; why haven't they been written about? There are magnificent, culturally rich sites, exquisite art objects, and jewelry, made of gold, rubies, and turquoise, so finely crafted."

Keller found the terrain difficult to navigate, requiring strict vigilance. In contrast, the scenery astounded her. "I had not seen such beautiful landscape ever. It was just gorgeous. And the people, they were very cordial," she said. "I enjoyed my time with them." Traveling solo allows Keller to immerse herself in a culture different from her own, learning the customs and traditions of the people.

With deep appreciation for the visceral beauty of art, Keller conducts research to enhance the classroom experience. She said, "It is mostly for my students, to share the process and my findings. I teach them how to do research and want them to go on a quest to understand art and cultures." She hopes this will engage her students and inspire them to be mindful of art by asking questions on a deeper level. "Also," she said, "It is always about the love of art — it needs to be studied, preserved, and celebrated and in the process, one also gets to know oneself. Art is a universal language that breaks down all barriers."

REFLECTIONS ON REUNION 2015

“A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE DAY”

By Patti-Ann Barry



It was a joyful day – the sun shone brightly and the campus bustled with activity as alumni returned to their alma mater on September 26 for Reunion 2015.

The festivities began with a morning liturgy, followed by the traditional parade of classes, a 50th Reunion celebration for the class of 1965, and other special gatherings. Participants warmly welcomed President Rhona Free at the annual luncheon, where she shared her thoughts on the benefits of an all-women education.

“Our alumni have had lives and careers that were filled with great adaptability,”

President Free said. “They switched careers, transitioned from focusing on work to focusing on family and then back to work again. They relocated to follow family, jobs, and business opportunities. I think all of this demonstrates the characteristics of those who self-select to go to a women’s college. They are self-confident, independent, and willing and able to take leadership positions. Our graduates feel very strongly, as do I, that USJ should remain a women’s college.”

Significant for Beth Fischer, RSM, '76, assistant dean of Student Affairs/Community Engagement, was witnessing the Mercy values still deeply-rooted in USJ alumni.

“Seeing how our alumni continue to embrace our core value of compassionate service is heartwarming,”

said Fischer. “Through their generosity at Reunion we donated 75 pounds of food to Hands on Hartford’s MANNA Community Pantry.”

Other highlights of Reunion included a lecture on “Impressionist Painters and their Gardens,” presented by Dorothy Bosch Keller M’85, C’97, DAA’99, chair of the department of Fine and Performing Arts; a visit to the Art Gallery Exhibit “Pan American Modernism;” and a look back at the history of the University with Diana Barnard, USJ’s archivist.

“This was my 50th Reunion, and over 30 of my classmates were able to come,” said Susan Stearn Moore '65, coordinator of the 50th Reunion. “It was a very well planned event and I was delighted to be able to catch up with friends, meet Dr. Free, attend Dorothy Keller’s wonderful lecture, take a tour of the CARE building, and see how the campus has changed. What a thoroughly enjoyable day.”



2015

REUNION
CELEBRATING CLASSES ENDING IN 0 & 5

Reunion 2015 Recap

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

RHONA FREE, PH.D.

NINTH PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH



Inauguration of President Free

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

- 8:30 a.m.-2:40 p.m.** SYMPOSIUM DAY
Celebrating Student Research and Scholarship;
Presentations in Bruyette Athenaeum and Lynch Hall
- 11:00 a.m.** SYMPOSIUM DAY PLENARY ADDRESS
by Martha Gervasi '83
Hoffman Auditorium in Bruyette Athenaeum
- 6:00 p.m.** RECEPTION
Bruyette Athenaeum
- 7:00 p.m.** CELTIC ENTERTAINMENT
by Ringrose & Freeman with the
Griffith Academy of Dance
Hoffman Auditorium in Bruyette Athenaeum

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

- 10:00-11:30 a.m.** ART & TOURS
Mercy Path tours
USJ campus tours
Art Museum exhibition: *Money Matters: Thomas Nast on the Economy*, Bruyette Athenaeum
- 2:00 p.m.** INAUGURATION CEREMONY
Connor Chapel of Our Lady
- 3:30 p.m.** RECEPTION

All events take place on the University of Saint Joseph campus
For more information, visit www.usj.edu/Inauguration2016.



Digital Citizenship Spreading Empathy in a Digital World

By Patti-Ann Barry

Although the day dawned cold and rainy, it did not dampen the enthusiasm surrounding the first national Digital Citizenship Summit held on October 3, 2015. Despite the weather, more than 200 technology experts, educators, students, and parents came to campus to engage in a thoughtful and timely conversation about digital citizenship.



Digital citizenship refers to “the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use,” as coined by participant Mike Ribble, Ed.D., author of *Digital Citizenship in Schools* and *Raising a Digital Child*. The summit was developed to improve student use of technology with a focus on cyber bullying, security threats, online reputation, and social media. Attendees from as far away as Utah, California, New Orleans, and Texas came to this inaugural think tank to discuss concerns and share strategies.

By Patti-Ann Barry
Spreading Empathy in a Digital World



◀◀ Dr. Mike Ribble, panelist, Susan M. Bearden, moderator, Marialice Curran, Ph.D., co-founder, Reuben Loewy, panelist, Dr. Shelley Prevost, panelist, Denise Lisi DeRosa, panelist, David Polger, J.D., co-founder

◀ Janell Burley Hofmann presents the first session in the Crystal Room

Marialice B.F.X. Curran, Ph.D., who co-founded the summit with David Polger, J.D., taught digital citizenship and literacy as an associate professor of Education. “Attending the Digital Citizenship Summit was an opportunity for everyone to be a part of this critical conversation,” said Curran.

USJ STUDENTS ON THE FRONTLINES OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Graduate students enrolled in the University’s Educational Technology program presented their research and observations. As classroom teachers, they work each day to guide their students in safe and healthy online behavior. All agree that if used appropriately, technology can be a powerful tool for students to learn, share knowledge, and connect to the global community.

“Positive solutions will help us humanize the person next to us, as well as across the screen. Helping students to think and act at a local, global, and digital level simultaneously is the ultimate goal.”

The day included an audience Q & A session with a panel of experts, presentations by teachers and technology experts, and poster presentations by USJ students. The message permeating throughout the summit was clear: empathy and mindfulness need to be at the core of all online interactions.

Haley Brown '11, M'15 Kindergarten Teacher

“We need to show our students how technology works and give them the skills they need to be successful. Technology teaches thinking skills, keeps students engaged, and meets common core needs. There are so many layers — creation, communication, and collaboration.”

Richard Abraham M'16 First Grade Teacher

“If we are putting technology in their hands, we should at least teach them how to use it. Responsibility and respect are important. They need to know that what they write online stays online and anyone can see it. In class, before posting anything online, we proofread it.”



Richard Abraham

Angela Minto M'16 Grade 11 & 12 Encore Science Teacher

“Character should be consistent — it is something you take with you wherever you go. If we look at your Facebook, what would it tell us? It is about forming good character offline and carrying it over online.”



Angela Minto

Lauren Perrault M'16 Third Grade Teacher

“I teach empathy, character, and respect by integrating it into reading and writing through the books I choose. We do team building and I encourage our students to take the initiative to model what character is. The content of what we teach is important, but being a good citizen is also important.”



Lauren Perrault

HELPING OTHERS THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (HOPE): THE FIGHT AGAINST BULLYING

A first-year Biology major at USJ, Victoria Maringola '19 participated in the summit because of her own experience with bullying — and her unique solution. Bullied in middle school, Maringola was afraid to report it until she was older. To help kids today, she created a smart phone app to report bullying. It sends an anonymous email to a school counselor from the user name “Help Stop Bullying,” giving students a safe outlet. “I also do presentations in schools about bullying and help them understand that bullying is not okay, that they need to tell someone, and they can get help,” she said. While the app is being used in her hometown, Maringola presented it at the State Legislature and is working to expand its reach.



Victoria Maringola '19

For insight and advice from digital experts, visit www.usj.edu/outlook/DigitalExperts.



Haley Brown



Tom Manley

Tom Manley M'17 Middle School Media and Technology Teacher

“I tell my students that everyone has a digital tattoo — anything you put on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or online follows you and defines you. I ask the question, ‘If you are going to get a tattoo to represent who you are, how do you get the best one possible?’ In the classroom, I teach them how to use technology and be a digital citizen by keeping things positive and acting as a role model.”



◀ Members of Latina Career Explorations gather before a meeting. Standing, left to right: Evelyn Soria '19, Iris Solis '19, Carol Ortega '18, Adriana Jiron '18, and Lourdes Garcia '19. Sitting, left to right: Jeychlea Diaz '19, Jaisha Rivera '19, Chantal Felix '19, and Carolina Acosta '19.

Celebrating Our Heritage – *An Unexpected Journey*

By Patti-Ann Barry

Along with on-site hours, the interns met every Thursday evening with Carmen Wynter, a graduate student in the TESOL Educator program, who serves as coordinator of LCE. The workshops totaled 15 hours and provided a nurturing environment that fostered personal growth, allowing the interns a place to reflect, share, and write in their journals:

“Each week they grew closer – happy to share struggles and successes, to have something in common, and to have a safe place to talk,” said Wynter.

The last meeting of the fall semester included a workshop — “Career Grooming for Success” — by alumna Barbara Mach-Oleksak '11, a graduate of the Social Work program. As a culmination of the LCE program, Mach-Olesak shared professional wardrobe tips.

“Since starting the internship, I have grown tremendously, both professionally and personally. I can speak out more and know how to act in a professional environment,” said Carolina Acosta '19, who assisted in the Gengras art room. She credits the program for her increased confidence working with special needs children — a skill she hopes will enhance her career as a nurse.

Participation in the spring session of the program is optional and consists of a variety of assignments, including “Latina Talk” presentations to USJ peers and speaking engagements at local high schools for Latina teens. Involvement in the LCE program ideally positions the interns to give back to the community by sharing their experiences. They can inspire and encourage other Latina women to cultivate professional skills, plan their career path, develop a network support system, and acknowledge the importance of their bilingual and bi-cultural skills.

“This internship was the root of all the things I have been involved in this semester and I am so excited to continue in the spring,” said Ortega. *“It is this positive, productive environment that will push me to accomplish my goals.”* 🏆

The final piece of the program, and perhaps the most meaningful to the interns, was “Latina Talk” — conversations with Latina professionals and alumni who shared their accomplishments and successes, along with the challenges, obstacles, and hard work that shaped them into strong, resilient women. Required to attend two out of four sessions, most of the interns attended all. *“Hearing the stories of women who have been in our exact footsteps and on our same paths, is beyond inspiring. It reaches you to the core,”* said Ortega.

The interns felt empowered by taking an active role in their professional development and focusing on areas such as resume writing, interviewing, networking, and being part of a team — skills that will prepare them for their next steps. *“Being successful in the world is about having real-world experiences — being a Spanish tutor definitely gave me more confidence,”* said Lourdes Garcia '19, a Psychology major who aspires to be a Marriage and Family therapist.

Gengras Center Director Michelle Lestrud, M.Ed., assigned placements that matched the interns’ skills, thus landing Ortega a position as a Spanish tutor. *“Before the internship, I definitely saw myself losing a lot of my bilingual and bicultural identity,”* said Ortega. *“When I saw the joy the students took in learning Spanish, I was reminded that it is a special part of me that I could share. They, in turn, taught me to be a better communicator.”*

Nursing major Adriana Jiron '18 loves that the internship emphasized being Latina and is proud to be part of a community serving the University. Jiron, who interned as a photographer, was often spotted roaming both the Gengras Center and CARE buildings looking for photo opportunities. *“I got to catch everyone happy and having fun. I did a weekly bulletin board with photos that corresponded to a word the students learned in Spanish, integrating my Spanish roots with my love of photography,”* Jiron said.

As a nursing major, Carol Ortega '18 never expected to find herself standing in front of a class teaching, let alone having the experience be so transformative. *“Taking on the teaching role at the Gengras Center School has been the highlight of my semester and I am so grateful to the Latina Career Explorations (LCE) internship program for this opportunity,”* said Ortega.

Rewind to August, when Ortega saw a recruitment flyer for LCE and started her unexpected journey — one she shared with nine other Latina women, made possible with a grant from the Aurora Foundation. The students were selected to participate in the yearlong, two-phase program that included a 30-hour on-site internship with the Gengras Center School, along with a stipend for college expenses.

“The Latina Career Explorations internship is a new initiative aimed at positioning first- and second-year Latina students for academic success, providing professional development opportunities and career planning skill sets, as well as celebrating the bilingual and bicultural skills the students bring to the program,” said Madeline Pérez, Ph.D., associate professor of Social Work and director of the Institute for Latino Community Practice (ILCP).



Iris Solis in the Gengras Art Room



Carol Ortega teaching Spanish



Carolina Acosta in the Gengras Art Room

Campus Snapshot

A look at a few — of the many — activities that occurred on campus during the fall semester, reminds us that USJ is alive with artistic, academic, and cultural events! Discover the vibrancy of USJ's campus — check out the spring calendar and join us at any of the upcoming events listed here: www.usj.edu/resources/calendar.



Convocation – the official start of the academic year
August 27, 2015



Governor Dannel Malloy H'12 takes a selfie with USJ students during a bill signing on campus
September 4, 2015



Backstage Stories with Ben Vereen: Interviewed by Colin McEnroe – an evening of lively conversation
September 26, 2015



Wellness Day – an annual event promoting health and wellness
October 7, 2015



Pan American USJ Family Day – an afternoon of games and activities for children and families
October 18, 2015



Nursing Professor Lucinda Canty delivers a “baby” via USJ’s newest Sim patient, “Victoria”
November 6, 2015



Soweto Gospel Choir – performing their multi Grammy and Emmy Award winning African Gospel music
November 17-18, 2015



Queenes Companye’s fall production, *The Return of the Soldier*
November 19-21, 2015



Veterans Day – honoring our vets
November 11, 2015



Festival of Lights – an annual Advent celebration
December 6, 2015

Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17

2015 Great Northeast
Athletic Conference

Champion By Will Schubert, Sports
Information Director



Her success at the fall championship had no singular genesis. There were the dashes through Asia as a high school runner when she and her family lived in Singapore. Then there were the goals prescribed (and nearly always exceeded) by her cross-country coach at USJ. Her teammates always had her back, too, encouraging and celebrating her, even if they struggled to keep up with her ever-increasing pace.



In a way, the origins of Kaneen Gomez-Hixson's success started at the end of the previous season when she finished fifth at the 2014 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Meet. USJ Coach Emily MacEwen, herself a scholarship runner at Monmouth University just a few years earlier, gave Gomez-Hixson the off-season regimen needed to improve.

Then, the serene and picturesque New England autumn gave way to one of the harshest winters in memory, creating an obstacle to those committed to daily outdoor training. The climate did little to deter Gomez-Hixson, though. Instead, it stoked her commitment to run just a little further, just a little faster. The endless self-competition her often-solitary pursuit brings is not subject to a calendar.

Gomez-Hixson took to the streets, training six days a week, running 6-10 miles a day. She would occasionally cross-train on a stationary bicycle (her easy days when she only clocked four miles).

The terrain she covered daily would cycle from being frozen and uneven to filled with slush through seemingly countless batterings of ice and snow. But Gomez-Hixson first competed in the withering heat of Singapore, so a few unshoveled sidewalks would not be a deterrent.

"It's not always easy to go out running when it's minus two degrees outside," she said. "One part is I love running and have to run. It's part of who I am. The motivation is to continue progressing and to be accountable to my team."

Coach MacEwen tapped into Gomez-Hixson's drive when she gave her the training regimen.

"Kaneen has not only the ability of a runner, but also the mental capacity to dedicate herself, to put in the time and effort to do what she has to in order to succeed. She never complained no matter what I threw at her. She's always smiling, very modest, and her teammates love her. Kaneen is what every coach wants," MacEwen said.

► Cross Country runner Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17 is named MVP by Coach Emily MacEwen (on right).



Gomez-Hixson's dedication was rewarded on October 31 in Standish, Maine, when she became the first USJ cross-country runner in 10 years (and only the second in school history) to win the GNAC Meet. When she broke through the finishing tape, 19 minutes and 59 seconds after she began the hilly 5k course, the nearest competitor in the 10-school, 115-runner field was eight seconds behind; the gap to third place was nearly 30 seconds.

By the midpoint of the race, Gomez-Hixson and Emmanuel College student Margaret McCaffrey had pulled away from the rest of the field. Gomez-Hixson inched out in front, but the pair was separated by only a few strides with the final 200 yards remaining. Since Gomez-Hixson was setting the pace she wanted, she had plenty of energy left at the end.

"We came out of the woods with one hill left to the finish line," she said. "The last 30 seconds, you just block everything out. I didn't know how far I was ahead, I kept pushing myself to go as fast as I could. There's always a chance they could have a kick, too. I didn't want to waste time looking back, because someone might catch me."



▲ Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17 is the first to cross the finish line at the 2015 GNAC Championship Meet.

Both runner and coach were thrilled. "It was exciting to watch," said MacEwen. "She did exactly what we planned. At the three-mile mark, you could tell she looked good, looked strong. She's got a great kick and once she sets her mind to take off, she's off."

When the meet was over, Gomez-Hixson said,

"I didn't believe that it actually happened. I sat down on the ground shocked. The whole evening, things didn't really sink in. When you set such a high goal for yourself and achieve it, it's really unbelievable, a surreal feeling."



▲ Associate Athletic Director Jackie Piscitelli

USJ WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jackie Piscitelli always wanted to get back into athletics. After four years as assistant registrar at USJ, she saw her opportunity when the position of associate athletic director opened up, following long-time staff member Deb Fiske's departure to Kingswood Oxford. Piscitelli applied and was named to the position in October.

"I'm thrilled to take on the role," Piscitelli said. "I welcome the new challenge and can't wait to work with our student-athletes, coaches, and alumni."

Piscitelli is well prepared for the position. She holds a B.A. in Communications from Central Connecticut State University and a master's in Management of Sport Industries from the University of New Haven. As a graduate assistant, she worked in the Athletic department at Boston College, and previously interned with the New Britain Rock Cats, a professional baseball team.

As USJ's associate athletic director, Piscitelli will serve as the Athletic department's senior women's administrator and compliance officer, as well as the director of recreation and intramurals. Being back in the game feels good: "Athletics is my passion and where I always wanted to be. I hope to bring my experience in higher education, along with my past athletic experience, to the position and use them to benefit USJ athletics and our extended community."

FALL SPORTS WRAP UP

Stay up-to-date on Blue Jay Sports! Visit www.usjbluejays.com for schedules, scores, and news.

Cross Country Success!

When she won the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship Meet in October, Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17 was the first USJ runner in 10 years to take the top prize and the second in school history. Over the course of the season, Gomez-Hixson was honored as the conference Runner of the Year, the Runner of the Week (four times), and the New England Division III Runner of the Week. Mia Tompkins '19 had a successful debut season and was named GNAC Rookie of the Week four times. She finished 16th at the GNAC Meet and the team ranked sixth in the standings, a one-spot improvement over last season.



► First-year student Mia Tompkins was named GNAC Rookie of the Week four times.

▼ Sophomore Tara Smith won 10 matches, leading the team in singles wins for the second consecutive year.



Tennis Scores Post-Season Win

The tennis team finished 8-7, ranking fourth in the GNAC and qualifying for the conference tournament for the third consecutive season. Once there, the Blue Jays defeated Albertus Magnus for its first post-season win since 2003. Tara Smith '18 had a 10-2 record and led the team in singles wins for the second year in a row. Sakinah Abdulsalam '19, who was named Second Team All-GNAC, and Ashley Savino '19, held eight singles wins apiece. They also played as doubles partners pairing for seven wins and sharing the team lead with 15 total wins.

Soccer Reaches GNAC Semifinals

The soccer team finished 10-7-2, winning 10 games for the eighth season in a row and qualifying for the GNAC Tournament for the 16th consecutive season. The team lost in the semifinals to Lasell College. Individual accolades went to Lindsey Cifaldi '16, who was named the GNAC Defensive Player of the Year, and Melissa Dodge '16, who was Goalkeeper of the Year; both players were named First Team All-GNAC. Dodge set a USJ record with 32 career shutouts. She and Cifaldi were key in the team allowing only 18 goals in 19 games. Morgan Skoly '19, who was named



Second Team All-GNAC, was the team's leading scorer with 10 goals. Emily Burke '16 was named Third Team.



▲ Senior soccer player Lindsey Cifaldi '16 was named GNAC Defensive Player of the Year.

◀ Senior Emily Vigue ends her Blue Jay volleyball career on a high note.

Volleyball Lands 12 Wins

The volleyball team finished with 12 wins, winning 10 or more games in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1999-2000. Tiffany Mapusaga '16 led the Blue Jays in kills (237), digs (321), and aces (58), and was named Second Team All-GNAC. Emily Vigue '16 was second on the team with 165 kills and 198 digs. Sarah Lipinski '19 ended the season with 151 kills and 240 digs. Vigue finished her four-year career with a total of 610 kills, 802 digs, and 214 aces.

CELEBRATING "WHAT IS BEST ABOUT COLLEGE ATHLETICS"

On November 30, the USJ community joined the Athletic department to celebrate the accomplishments of its student athletes at the Fall Sports Awards. President Rhona Free congratulated not just the athletes, but their coaches and supporters. "Since the beginning of the semester I was able to watch all four of our fall teams," she said. "In most cases, I watched competitions at a time when Saint Joe's was winning, which was nice, but even when that was not the case, our student athletes and coaches played with intensity and enthusiasm."

"The parents and fans were supportive. The coaches were encouraging and focused on players' skill development and on strategy. What I saw epitomized what is best about college athletics." 🏆



President Rhona Free congratulates USJ student athletes

Soccer

Most Valuable Player: Melissa Dodge '16
Most Improved Player: Annmarie Masayda '19
Coach's Award: Lindsey Cifaldi '16



▲ Blue Jay soccer players Annmarie Masayda '19, Lindsey Cifaldi '16, and Melissa Dodge '16

Tennis

Most Valuable Player: Rebecca Mauri '17
Most Improved Player: Ashley Savino '19
Coach's Award: Tara Smith '18



▲ Award winners Ashley Savino '19, Rebecca Mauri '17, and Tara Smith '18

Volleyball

Most Valuable Player: Tiffany Mapusaga '16
Most Improved Player: Naisha Ruzensky '19
Coach's Award: Emily Vigue '16



◀ Volleyball players Emily Vigue '16, and Tiffany Mapusaga '16

Cross Country

Most Valuable Runner: Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17
Most Improved Runner: Mary Anderson '18
Coach's Award: Amber Tremblay '17



◀ Cross Country runners Kaneen Gomez-Hixson '17, and Mary Anderson '18

YOUR CONTACTS

NICOLE BATTISTONE '15
Coordinator, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
860.231.5511 | nbattistone@usj.edu

RITA BAYER '05
Stewardship Coordinator
860.231.5462 | rbayer@usj.edu

SARAH W. BLANCHARD
Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
860.231.5355 | sblanchard@usj.edu

THOMAS BORJAS, M.A., CFRE, BCRE
Director, Advancement Services
860.231.5898 | tborjas@usj.edu

DIANE BURGESS
Director, Major Gifts
860.231.5502 | dburgess@usj.edu

THECLA COLON
Development Associate, Advancement Services
860.231.5512 | tcolon@usj.edu

KATHRYN DASILVA '15
Coordinator, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
860.231.5364 | kdasilva@usj.edu

CHRISTINA FLOOD '07, M'09
Administrative Assistant, Major Gifts
860.231.5888 | cflood@usj.edu

BETTYANNE JANELLE '07
Coordinator of Meeting and Conference Services
860.231.5292 | bjanelle@usj.edu

ELIZABETH MCCARTNEY, MBA, CFRE
Research, Grants, & Sponsored Programs
860.231.5237 | emccartney@usj.edu

DOROTHY PANARO
Executive Assistant
860.231.5291 | dpanaro@usj.edu

MAGGIE PINNEY '95
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
860.231.5397 | mpinney@usj.edu

DIANE THOMAS
Major Gifts Officer
860.231.5347 | drthomas@usj.edu

KELLEY STREETER HILL M'15
Director of Special Events
860.231.5228 | kstreeter@usj.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

LEADING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ALISA DZANANOVIC SISIC '05 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Meet Alisa Dzananovic Sisic '05, your new Alumni Association president, elected on September 26, 2015. Sisic graduated from USJ in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in International Studies. She earned a master's in Communications from Central Connecticut State University in 2009 and currently works as a marketing and communications coordinator/public information officer at the Connecticut Airport Authority. In 2012, Sisic was named "one of the best and brightest" on *Hartford Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty list, honored for her role as an industry leader with a commitment to business success, personal growth, and community involvement.

Q. What made you want to serve as president?

A. As a student, I could have never imagined that someday I would become the president of the Alumni Council. I think most of us believe that once we graduate and hold that diploma in our hands our relationship with the University ends. But it doesn't — and shouldn't — have to be that way. My involvement with the Alumni Council is a great example of that. The University has done so much for me; it feels good to give back. And it feels great to reconnect with peers and get to know current students. I'm honored to have been elected to this role and look forward to collaborating with the entire USJ community on staying in touch with our alumni.

Q. What goals do you have for the Alumni Association?

A. Just as the University periodically evaluates and adjusts its academic offerings and operational priorities, we also have to examine our relationship with our alumni from time to time. In this day and age when everyone leads a busy life, it is important to be flexible and to offer opportunities for engagement that fit our alumni's different stages of life and interests.

It is my hope that the Alumni Council, in collaboration with President Free and the Institutional Advancement team, will find ways to tailor unique opportunities to our diverse alumni population. For example, we have to ask ourselves: how do we cater to different age groups and stages of life? Alumni living in various geographic locations? Those with different majors and interests? Those who were residents vs. those who commuted to USJ?

There are many ways to accomplish this and I strongly believe that engaging current students in these efforts will be key. As always, we welcome feedback from our alumni community. If you are a graduate and have ideas you'd like to share, I'd love to hear from you.

Q. How have you been active as an alumna in the past?

A. My involvement has spanned from attending events to hosting alumni gatherings, as well as serving in various leadership capacities on the Alumni Council.

Q. What are the simplest things alumni can do to support the University?

A. There are many ways of supporting USJ — whatever you give, whether it's financial support, a commitment of time, or your talents, students will benefit from your generosity. In addition to making a difference, you'll have the opportunity to reconnect with classmates, make new friends, and expand your professional network.

Q. As a graduate, what do you most appreciate about your USJ education?

A. As a student, I was empowered and challenged. I enjoyed my time here and I appreciate the level of education I received — it made for a very smooth transition into graduate school and my career. I attribute my success to the professors who invest so much time and energy into their students — I never felt like a number at USJ.

Q. What is your favorite USJ memory?

A. There are many! The one that comes immediately to mind, however, is graduation day. Even though it was pouring rain that day, it did not put a damper on the excitement and feeling of accomplishment. Thinking about it still gives me goose bumps.

To join the Alumni Council or to learn about various volunteer opportunities, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@usj.edu or 860.231.5355.



FALL ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Meeting President Rhona Free

Two alumni-hosted receptions held in the fall gave fellow alumni a chance to meet President Rhona Free, Ph.D., in an intimate setting. Roselee Barbagallo Fanelli '61, M'66, DAA'11, hosted at her home in Norfolk, Conn., and Trustee Sheila Horan '69, DAA'04, hosted on Cape Cod.

Celebrating CARE

In September, members of the Class of 1962 gathered on campus for lunch and a tour of the Center for Applied Research and Education (CARE), led by Gengras Center School Director Michelle Lestrud, M.Ed.

Caring and the Caregiver

On October 15, Catherine Gentile '71, M'76, author of *The Quiet Roar of a Hummingbird*, delivered a Mercy Lecture on "Alzheimer's/Dementia: Caring and the Caregiver" in the Crystal Room.

Shared Histories

Several alumni returned to the USJ classroom to meet with students in the first-year seminar class, "No Boys Allowed: The History of the American College Experience for Women." Co-taught by Jessyka Scopetta, Ed.D., and Amanda Greenwell, M.A., one of the course's essential questions asked what can be learned by examining the experiences of women in institutions of higher education. Students wanted to hear from the USJ women who came before them. The content of the conversations between students and alumni were used in the students' final projects. In attendance were: Former Interim President Carol Guardo '61, DAA'80, H'08, Ph.D., Michelle Confessore '85, M'93, Stephanie Ramsey '08, Katie Riccobon '98, M'02, Laurette Laramie '60, DAA'08, and Katie DaSilva '15.



▲ Mary Pringle Mitchell '90, M'94, her husband, Walter, and their family celebrate her 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award.

ALUMNI PROFILE

LIFE STORIES: MARY PRINGLE MITCHELL '90, M'94, DAA'12

By Patti-Ann Barry

Mary Pringle Mitchell '90, M'94, DAA'12 was a long time volunteer at Hartford Hospital when a doctor she worked with encouraged her to study counseling at USJ. So at the age of 50, after raising her children and working for the family car dealership, she summoned the courage to try. Little did Mitchell know it would launch a long and fulfilling career.

With support from her family and professors, Mitchell earned a B.A. in Psychology, Gerontology, and Counseling and went on to complete a master's in Human Development and Gerontology. It was a "Counseling of the Aging" course that set her on the path to Gerontology. "It changed my life," said Mitchell. "As part of the curriculum, we had to interview a lot of people and I found I enjoyed it and was good at it. People would open up and tell me their stories." After a life review course, she realized the value of personal histories and the importance of capturing them in print for future generations.

As a self-employed Gerontologist for more than 20 years and an expert in the field of personal narratives, Mitchell has helped numerous people write about their lives. She self-published four books on her own family history, along with an oral history workbook. Mitchell has presented her work at national and regional conferences, lectured at various colleges and universities, hosted a Simsbury community TV show, served as president of the Northeastern Gerontological Society, and volunteered for many years at the McLean Home. She currently facilitates a writing group for the Indian River Genealogy Society in Vero Beach, Fla., and a "Reminisce with Mary" group at the Virginia Connolly Residence. She is also working (along with June McKay, Helen Muszynski, and Barbara Thomas) on *Memories of Weatogue and Beyond*, a book relaying stories and the history of growing up in the town of Weatogue. Honored as a distinguished alumna in 2012, Mitchell received the Mary Rosa McDonough Award.

Mitchell recently established the Walter I. and Mary P. Mitchell '90, M'94, DAA'12 Endowed Scholarship, which reflects her commitment to Gerontology. "There is a need to have professionals who understand the aging population and currently there is a shortage of people in the field," said Mitchell. The scholarship, in memory of her husband, Walter Mitchell, will benefit students studying and working within the field of Gerontology, such as Nursing or Social Work.

"Going to USJ as an adult learner changed my life," Mitchell said. "It gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion for Gerontology and to work with people in a variety of locations."

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30 @ 12:00 p.m.
Alumni Luncheon
Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs, Fla.

April 3 @ 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Golden Dome Society and Saint Catherine Society Reception
Mercy Hall, Crystal Room

April 14 & 15
Inauguration of President Rhona Free
See more information on page 20 or at www.usj.edu/inauguration2016

April 14
Symposium Day

April 23 @ 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
USJ Alumni and Student Service Day
Saint Mary's Cemetery
Join us in the beautification of Saint Mary's Cemetery. Coffee and bagels will be served.

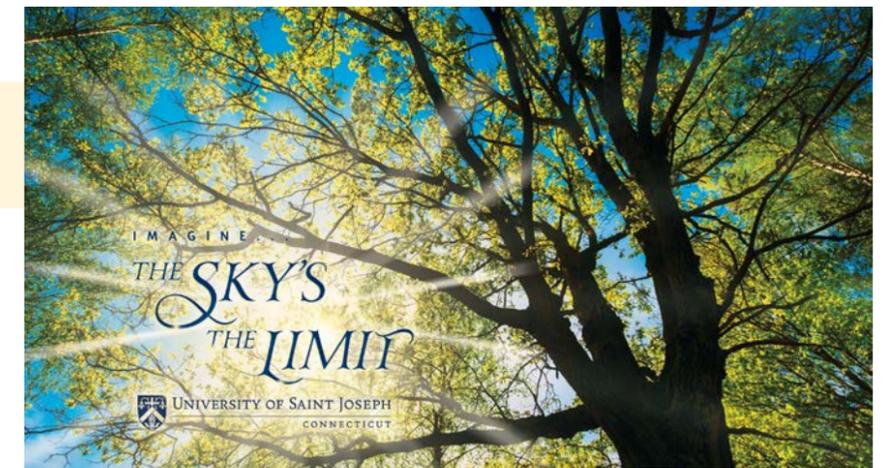
April 25 @ 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Hartford Mayor Ann Uccello: A Connecticut Trailblazer Book Signing
Mercy Hall, Crystal Room

May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.
2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards
Hartford Marriott Downtown
See page 38
For more information about nominees go to www.usj.edu/daa. To register, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@usj.edu or 860.231.5323.

June 10 @ 6:00 p.m.
"Imagine ... The Sky's the Limit" Gala
Connecticut Convention Center

June 12 @ 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception
New Canaan, Conn.

June 26 @ 8:30 a.m.
USJ 5K
O'Connell Center



Save the Date

Be sure to mark your calendar and save the date for the 2016 "Imagine ... the Sky's the Limit" Gala. This year's event, honoring the Gengras Center, will take place on **June 10** at the Connecticut Convention Center. Watch your mail and the USJ website for upcoming details.

Honoring a Connecticut Trailblazer: Ann Uccello '44, DAA'78, H'71

Antonina "Ann" Uccello '44 made history in 1967 when she became the first woman mayor in Connecticut and the first to lead the capital city. That journey, along with her remarkable life, is chronicled in a new book: *Hartford Mayor Ann Uccello: A Connecticut Trailblazer* by Paul Pirrotta (Arcadia Publishing and the History Press). The book captures Uccello's stellar political career, as well as her family life, education, and other key influences. Members of the USJ community will enjoy the passages that reference her time at Saint Joe's and her family — including sisters Vincenza "Vinnie" Uccello '56, DAA'95, H'00, and Nellie Uccello Romaine '54.

The publisher's website describes Uccello as an important leader in an era of social and political unrest: "One of five sisters and the child of Italian immigrants, her journey toward the American dream advanced innovative solutions for the economic and social problems of the city. Faced with poverty, unrest and a shrinking tax base, Ann was a dynamic leader who dealt with the city's issues directly and pragmatically. She championed better housing and job training and even went into the heart of riots to calm the crowds. She was re-elected mayor in 1969, lost an extremely close election for Congress in 1970, and in 1971 joined the Nixon administration as consumer affairs director at the Department of Transportation."



On Monday, April 25, USJ will host a conversation, book signing and reception with Antonina "Ann" Uccello and author Paul Pirrotta from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Mercy Hall, Crystal Room. Please R.S.V.P. to cflood@usj.edu or 860.231.5888.

◀ Ann Uccello '44 and her sister, Nellie Romaine '54 at a book signing in November.

Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

Join us as we honor the following alumni for their professional achievements and community service at the Distinguished Alumni Award dinner on May 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott.

Laura Bailey '97 (Nursing) of Hebron, Conn., executive director of the Saint Francis Women and Infants Service Line, will receive the Nightingale Health Science Award for leadership in the field of nursing.

Gene and Kathleen Bruyette '49, H'04, DAA'99 (Economics) of Stuart Fla., philanthropists, will receive the Pamela Trotman Reid Service Award recognizing an alumni or friend who has transformed the University through financial support. Beneficiaries of their generous donations over the last 35 years include the Kathleen Bruyette Natatorium, The Keefe-Bruyette Symposium, and the School of Pharmacy.

Judith Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, Ph.D. (Special Education) of Hartford, Conn., an organizational consultant in the area of sponsorship education and training, will receive the Winifred E. Coleman Service Award for exemplary service and commitment to USJ.

M. Carolyn Dodd '59, M'78 (Early Childhood Education) of West Hartford, Conn., an active volunteer with the Jubilee House in Hartford and advocate for Braille Literacy in Children, will receive the Mary DeLourdes Kenny Award for distinction in the field of education.

Susan Stearn Moore '65 (Mathematics) of Franconia, New Hampshire, a principal founder of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country (ASPNC), will receive the Mary Rosa McDonough Award for outstanding service to the community and to USJ.

Marcia Prenguber '75, ND (Special Education) of Stratford, Conn., Dean for the College of Naturopathic Medicine at the University of Bridgeport, will receive the Mary Consuela Mulcahy Award for distinction in the field of science.

Maryam Wassil Wardak '03, M'08 (History and Education) of Wethersfield, Conn., a Social Studies teacher at William Hall High School, will receive the Sister Fay O'Brien School of Education Award for leadership in education and commitment to USJ.

Check the mail for your DAA Dinner invitation or contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@usj.edu or 860.231.5364.



Winifred E. Coleman Memorial Fund

President Emerita Winifred E. Coleman, who passed away on June 19, 2015, will forever be remembered as a visionary leader with a warm, charismatic personality. Her 13-year tenure (1991-2004) resulted in tremendous growth for the University with the completion of two capital campaigns and the expansion of campus. Please consider honoring President Coleman's legacy with a contribution to the **Winifred E. Coleman Memorial Fund**, supporting student scholarships and the presidential portrait.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to create an endowed scholarship to be awarded in perpetuity, assuring that President Coleman's legacy will always be remembered.

Make your gift online at www.usj.edu/give or send it to the Office of Institutional Advancement, 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT, 06117.

GET INVOLVED!

2016 REUNION

CELEBRATING CLASSES ENDING IN 1 & 6

Looking Ahead to Reunion 2016

Start planning now for Reunion 2016, scheduled for Saturday, September 17 and honoring classes ending in 1 and 6 — although all alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!

To join the Reunion Committee, or for more information, contact Nicole Battistone '15 at nbattistone@usj.edu or 860.231.5511.



THE VALUE OF THE USJ ALUMNI COUNCIL

The Alumni Council promotes unity among graduates as they connect and engage with the University. All Alumni Council activities work to promote lifelong relationships and support the mission and traditions of USJ.

Working in close relationship with President Rhona Free and University staff, members of the Council communicate with current students and alumni, inviting them to reconnect with USJ.

Opportunities exist to mentor students and support the professional growth of graduates. Alumni are needed to share their experiences with students through seminars, classroom programs, concerts, special events, and community outreach.

As a graduate, you are the perfect representation of the University's high-quality education. We encourage your participation in the many programs sponsored throughout the year. We also invite you to contact us if you have ideas on new ways to engage graduates.

Committee work is underway for the current academic year and we welcome your participation! Won't you come and share your experience and love of USJ with current students? Show them how to stay connected to their beloved University.

The next Alumni Council meeting is April 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. on campus. We'd love to have you join us! For more information about participating, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@usj.edu or 860.231.5364.

– Michelle Confessore '85, M'93
Alumni Council Vice President



▲ *Giving Tuesday*: USJ Trustees Judith Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, Ph.D., and Patricia Rooney, RSM, '58, M'72, DAA'00, visited campus for Giving Tuesday where they encountered the Blue Jay.

SUPPORT USJ! THE POWER OF EACH AND EVERY GIFT

“We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.”

– Catherine McAuley

Your gift shines a light for students:

Go online at www.usj.edu/give or use the enclosed envelope. Contact Maggie Pinney '95, vice president for Institutional Advancement, at mpinney@usj.edu or 860.231.5397 for more information about:

- Estate planning
- Bequests
- Securities
- Matching gifts
- Scholarships and more

CLASS NOTES

Keep the USJ community informed! Share news on your career, family, education, and more. Send your information for the next edition of *Outlook* magazine's Class Notes to Patti Barry at pbarry@usj.edu. Digital photos are welcome. Please note, your submission may be edited for publication purposes.

1950

Edwina Lynch Bosco and her dear friend, **Charlotte Hayes Walters**, held a mini USJ reunion in September at the Pattaconk Yacht Club in Chester, Conn. They also celebrated their official 65th Reunion on campus in September.



1952

The grandson of **Ann Love Blood** was accepted to the USJ School of Pharmacy following his graduation from Seton Hall University. This will be the third generation to attend USJ, as Ann's daughter received her master's from the University in 2005.

1954

Joan McMinamin Harlow welcomed a new grandchild, Fiona Harlow.

1961

On October 16, Rhode Island College honored its first female president, **Carol J. Guardo, DAA'80, H'08**, with a dedication ceremony that named the School of Social Work in her honor. The building is now known as the Carol J. Guardo Hall.



1962

Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo and her husband, Nicholas, celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Holly, in November. The wedding took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Chicago.



Pictured from left to right are: Nick and Kathleen Amatangelo, daughter and bride Holly Megan, son-in-law and groom William Kissane, daughter and matron of honor Amy Amatangelo, granddaughter and flower girl Molly Shay, grandson Nicholas Shay, and son-in-law and usher Lawrence Shay.

1963

Maria Menturweck Digennaro completed six years at Yale University School of Medicine as manager of the Medical Student Laboratory Suite.

1965

Adele Kasinskas enjoyed her 50th Reunion at USJ and is grateful for visiting with her classmates.

1966

Sandra Strugala Coyle retired from a career in education and is currently a certified exercise and zone builder instructor for those who wish to maintain their flexibility and balance.

1969

Jeanne Bisailon Lee retired from the State of Connecticut in 2014. She enjoys traveling to warmer climates during the cold winter months.

1970

Proud USJ alumni **Joyce Ann Pellegrino, Linda Ann Rizk Noujaim M'74**, and **Gina Caporale Kindt '97, M'02** caught up at the Sacred Heart High School Annual Dinner held at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn., on November 3, 2014.



1977

Ann Begley retired from Waterbury Public Schools and joined USJ in 2015 as supervisor of Student Teachers.

David and **Carla Perlotto's** son, Joseph Perlotto, graduated from the University of Connecticut in May 2015.

1979

Kathleen McGrath Fitts was named a 2015 Hero of the Fortune 500 for her leadership of the pro bono program within the legal department of Liberty Mutual Insurance in Boston. She has represented low-income people in housing and domestic violence matters

for more than 25 years. Fitts is chair of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and a member of the State's Access to Justice Commission. On weekends, she volunteers with the local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Celina Weber retired from teaching and is now enjoying gardening and traveling.

1981

Mary Jean Donovan Higgins recently retired after 30 years of teaching in the Meriden School system. After retirement, she returned to teaching for the Archdiocese of Hartford and is at St. Joseph School in Meriden as a kindergarten teacher.

1983

Janet Troland Discepolo was named 2014 Teacher of the Year in Wolcott, Conn.

Patricia L. Ritchie was certified as a Master Gardner through UConn in 2015.

Sue Smolski (M'89) retired in June 2015 after a nearly 50-year career in nursing.

1984

Robin Jones moved to Alaska with her husband, but hopes to return back east and to her early learning center.

1985

Susan McCarthy Henneberry is the principal at Granby Memorial Middle School.

1986

Susan Buckwell (M'89) was recently promoted to district supervisor of Special Education at the New Britain Transitional Center.

Marisol Cruz Meléndez is a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program in the College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions (ENHP) at the University of Hartford. She published an op-ed in *The Bristol Press* titled "Gender Equity and College Athletics: The Promise of Title IX."

2004

Cynthia Harbeson was appointed head of special collections at the Jones Library in Amherst, Mass.

Jennifer Towne is the assistant vice president of Marketing for Acadia Insurance Co.

2008

Noreen Shugrue (M), a research associate at the UConn Center on Aging, was recently elected to the board of Duncaster Retirement Community, where she will join Duncaster's Audit Committee. She also serves on the Finance Committee of the UConn Law School Foundation, as well as the Investment Committee for the Mark Twain House and Museum. Shugrue is a member of the Gerontological Society of America and a founding member of the United Way Women's Leadership Council. She earned her J.D. from the UConn Law School, an MBA from Yale School of Management, an M.A. in Gerontology and Human Development from USJ, and a B.A. from Saint Joseph's University in Penn.

2010

Ashleigh Boyer is in Iraq serving on a Forward Surgical Team where she is in charge of the Trauma Section. Forward Surgical Teams perform damage control surgery after soldiers are injured on the front lines and then evacuate soldiers back to the states. Ashleigh will return in early 2016.



2015

Amber Daoust is a peer support specialist who collaborates with DCF to reduce the number of children put into congregate care settings by working to keep them in the community. She plans to return to USJ for her master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling or her MSW.

Dillon Keefe, Pharm.D. works at Compound Solutions in Pharmacy in Monroe, Conn.



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Syedha Browne '15 married Tyrae McDuffie on September 28, 2015.

Monika Dezhbod '15 married Abram Moore in July 2015.

Kathryn DaSilva '15 is engaged to Michael Burke; a September 2017 wedding is planned. She also completed her first half marathon in Rhode Island.





REMEMBERING FRANCES SHEA BUCKLEY '50, DAA'76

Top-Ranking Naval Officer Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

Representing the University of Saint Joseph, alumna **Elizabeth Rhodes '89** attended the funeral of retired Rear Admiral **Frances Shea Buckley '50, DAA'76**, Nurse Corps, United States Navy, at Arlington National Cemetery on November 19, 2015.

Shea Buckley received her B.S. in Nursing from USJ (then Saint Joseph College) and an M.S. in Nursing Service Administration from DePaul University. She had an illustrious 32-year career in the Navy, retiring in 1983 as a Rear Admiral — only the second woman promoted to the two star flag officer rank in the history of the Navy and the only active female Rear Admiral at the time.

Prior to her retirement, Shea Buckley served simultaneously as Director of the Navy Nursing Corps (the first Navy Nurse Corps Officer) and Deputy Commander for Medical Department Personnel, Commanding Officer of the Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command — two high-ranking, full-time positions.

Serving in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, she was the recipient of many awards and medals, including the Legion of Merit Award, the National Defense Service Medal with star, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. After her retirement, Shea Buckley remained active, serving on numerous boards and committees. She was a member of the women's advisory committee of the Department of Veteran Affairs, a consultant for FEMA, and a faculty member at the U.S. Air Force School of Aero Space Nursing. Notable for Shea Buckley was her role in establishing the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., one of the most visited memorials in the city. In 2004, Shea Buckley received the Navy Nurse Corps Association Meritorious Recognition Award.



IN MEMORIAM

The University of Saint Joseph offers condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased alumni:

LORETTA MORAN CONNELLY '39, P'67
July 28, 2015

MARGARET COLLINS COFFEY '43
June 30, 2015

KATHLEEN KENURE ALDERMAN '45
October 27, 2015

ELIZABETH MOORE FITZPATRICK '45
October 28, 2015

KATHERINE FAGAN ARNOLD '46
October 26, 2015

MARY T. BERGAN '46
October 15, 2015

IDA SADOTTI CIANCI '47
August 24, 2014

NANCY ROSER NEWTON '49, GP'05
August 22, 2015

**FRANCES SHEA BUCKLEY, NC, USN,
RET '50, DAA'76**
July 8, 2015

**MARY ELLEN MURPHY, RSM, '50, DAA'75,
H'12, PH.D.**
July 27, 2015

NANCY RILEY COLLINS '51, P'81
September 13, 2015

MARY FLYNN HOEY '51
July 15, 2015

HELEN CONNERY CZARNECKI '52
September 15, 2015

JEANNINE MASSICOTTE PROVENZANO C'52
August 14, 2015

PHYLLIS JOHNSON HULBERT '53
July 28, 2015

BARBARA HOUGHTON DEVEAU '54
November 14, 2014

MARIA GUGLIEMINO SWIFT '59
October 18, 2015

MARGARET RYAN BRENTON '60
October 4, 2015

MARY HAMILL RUTENBERG '62
May 28, 2015

ANITA MIRTO SAPNAR '63
October 10, 2015

SALLY WOLFF HOUSER '64
July 7, 2015

MARY LYMAN O'REILLY '65
July 29, 2015

SISTER SARAH TELLIER '66
September 29, 2015

KATHLEEN A. KOVACS '74
September 1, 2015

JANE MORELLI JOHNSON '75
May 21, 2015

NORMA CRUTCHLEY KINGSBURY M'79
July 28, 2015

THE REVEREND DR. HAROLD R. WIMMER M'81
June 30, 2015

SUSANA MUNIZ DIAZ '82
August 25, 2015

JOYCE GODIN M'84
September 21, 2015

MARGARET MAHAR '84
July 27, 2015

MARY "JEAN" MALETTA M'84
July 5, 2015

JANET MARCHLEWSKI KOMACKI '88
February 4, 2015

PAUL N. DUQUETTE M'88
June 17, 2015

LISA CHRISTENSEN DIBELLA '89
July 26, 2015

CEIL MARIE BISCOGLIO '97
September 4, 2015

**PRESIDENT EMERITA WINIFRED E. COLEMAN,
D.H.L., DAA'04**
June 19, 2015

VERA CRAWFORD HALE M'04
June 12, 2015

BETSY B. HOOPLE M'07
September 12, 2015

LINDA DECKER TIDWELL M'08
October 8, 2015

PATRICIA B. ROOHR M'09
October 2, 2015

The next Chapel Bells Mass will be on November 9, 2016. If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact Rita Bayer, stewardship coordinator, at **860.231.5462** or **rbayer@usj.edu**.

The Growing Case for A Women's College Education: What the Data Says.

By Rhona Free, Ph.D., President

The following editorial ran in The Hartford Courant on December 6, 2015.

Hillary Clinton is likely to be the first woman nominated by a major party for president and it should be no surprise to anyone that she graduated from Wellesley College — a women's college.

The list of "firsts" among women's college graduates is long and impressive. It includes Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman to represent a major U.S. political party as a candidate for vice president; Katharine Graham, the first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company; Nancy Pelosi, first woman speaker of the House; and Madeleine Albright, the first woman secretary of state.

Closer to home, Hartford's first female mayor, Ann Uccello '44, graduated from the University of Saint Joseph and Ella Grasso, the state's first woman governor, graduated from Mount Holyoke College.

While graduates of women's colleges represent only two percent of the population with a college degree, the data shows they are highly represented in positions of power, leadership, innovation, and creativity. The Women's College Coalition reports that 30% of the women on *Businessweek's* list of "rising stars in corporate America" are women's college graduates. Likewise, a third of the Fortune 1,000 female board members graduated from single gender institutions.

It may appear that this phenomenon reflects the past, a time when women were denied admission to the nation's

most competitive colleges and universities. With these barriers no longer in place, are women's colleges still relevant? Is there value in today's world for a women's only college experience?

To assess the impact of a women's college education, we need to look at two forces. First, the degree of self-selection at play. A 2015 study by UCLA concluded that women's colleges "attract students who are especially ambitious, intellectually curious, creative, and social change-oriented."

Then there is the actual education, as reported by students. How do the experiences and outcomes of women's college graduates differ from their peers at co-educational institutions? The Women's Colleges Comparative Alumnae Research Project found that graduates of women's colleges report a greater level of participation while in school — in internships, extracurricular activities, community service, and campus leadership. They also carry this into their post-college lives as community service volunteers and leaders of nonprofit organizations.

Women's college students are also more likely to graduate in four years (or less) and to complete a graduate degree. They are more likely to report that their colleges helped them develop lasting skills: specifically, to write and speak effectively; to think analytically and creatively; and to relate to people of different backgrounds. Perhaps most important, they said the women's college experience integrated values and ethics in the learning, which helped them to develop moral principles that continue to guide their actions.

Overall, women's college graduates were more likely to feel the financial investment made in college was worth the expense. They also report feeling safe and comfortable in the single gender environment. Students at most women's college interact with male students through special programs and co-curricular activities. University of Saint Joseph students take coed classes at 10 other colleges and universities in the Greater Hartford region, through the Hartford Consortium. While on their home campus, though, they use residence halls, facilities, services, and activities that are designed specifically for women. They learn in classrooms, studios, and labs where women fill every leadership role, are at the top of every class, and seize every opportunity available.

Interestingly, recent reports show that enrollment at women's colleges is on the rise. Of the nation's 44 women's colleges, 60% saw an increase for the current academic year and three schools reported record enrollment. The University of Saint Joseph experienced a 42% increase in first-year students.

Whether or not this indicates a renaissance of sorts, the data reveals numerous and varied benefits from attending a women's college. In a world where exceptional young women have a host of academic options, a growing number are choosing to attend a women's college — not by default, but by choice — a choice the data says is a smart one. 🎓

I WILL carry on tradition



and support this generation of USJ women!

Today's USJ students are hard working, committed, and passionate leaders who will carry the University's values into the future. Support the **USJ Fund** and help them help our world.

"Without my scholarship from the **USJ Fund**, I would not be able to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. Because of this support, I am able to attend an amazing University, receive a great education, and get hands-on experience in my field. I am beyond thankful for the support I receive from alumni and other generous donors. I look forward to graduating in 2017 and bringing everything I learned at USJ into my career as a Special Education teacher."

— Megan Soares '17
Special Education major

Ways to give

- Online at www.usj.edu/give
- U.S. mail:
Office of Institutional Advancement
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
- Or call for more information:
860.231.5364 📞

