



Greetings from the University of Saint Joseph

During the holiday break, we hope you will enjoy time with your USJ student and have a few minutes to hear about, and take pride in, all that has been accomplished since August. Fall semester 2018 – USJ's first coeducational semester for our undergraduates – provided a huge range of new opportunities for students to learn, make new friends, and have lots of fun. Highlights include dozens of **academic and cultural events that were free and open to students:**

News from Campus

The USJ 2018 Speaker Series featured former Connecticut U.S. Attorneys Deirdre Daly and Kevin O'Connor, who focused their discussion on the Special Counsel investigation of Russian interference during the 2016 Presidential Election. It was moderated by Nikos Valance, J.D., LL.M., director of the USJ Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice Program.

Reverend Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., professor of Religious Studies and Theology, presented the 2018 Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Scholarship Award lecture entitled, "'Haunted House,' Skeletons of a Racist Past, and their Influences on U.S. Buddhism."

USJ's Women L.E.A.D. in S.T.E.A.M. hosted two events, which welcomed Linda K. Barry, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, UCONN surgeon and administrator, and Honey Reddi, Ph.D., FACMG, Clinical Laboratory Director at Jackson Laboratory.

"#MeToo: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment in the Professional Workplace," sponsored by the Women's Learning Community and the Backpack-to-Briefcase program (student groups), featured a panel of five prominent professionals and was moderated by NBC Connecticut Reporter Leslie Mayes.

Students were also engaged in community activities ranging from free CPR training with an alumna who recently saved a toddler's life following a car accident to the diaper drive, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to encourage students to vote, and so much more.



The most comprehensive skill-building event during the fall semester was **Leadership Quest**, a day-long workshop hosted by the Division of Student Affairs. Participants benefited from the opportunity to expand their knowledge and enhance their leadership skills. The theme of the workshop was "The Power of Your Voice," and two keynote speakers – Dariel Henry and Austin Ashe (in photo) – provided attendees an invigorating message about exercising their leadership skills by ensuring their voices are heard on campus and in the world at large.

This semester, **the Student Government Association (SGA)** has been working hard to assist all of the student-led clubs and organization as they plan and host events on campus, and working directly with the Office of Student Activities & Leadership Development (SALD) in creating a more streamlined and accessible process for the formation of new student-led groups on campus.

The campus community recently came together for the first ever **USJ Blue Jay Week**.

There were more than 20 events for students, faculty, staff, and the greater USJ community that included performances, athletic events, and multiple giveaways, all in recognition of the winter sport teams. If you didn't get a chance to attend a game in the fall, there's still plenty of time to join us for a winter or spring sport. Check the [Blue Jays schedule](#) online to make plans to get into the Blue Jay spirit!

As always, **your student's safety is our top priority**. To make access to our Public Safety team even easier for everyone on campus, we recently launched a customized USJ version of the free [LiveSafe®](#) app. The app's many features allow anyone on campus to easily reach campus safety resources. Additionally, with winter upon us there may be storms that affect whether the campus will be opening late, closing early, or entirely closed for the day. To ensure that you have the most up-to-date information, [please sign up for USJ text alerts](#) to receive messages on weather-related issues and other campus safety notifications.

Resident students will participate in the housing selection process for the 2019-2020 academic year beginning in March and April. This year the Office of Residential Life will be implementing a fully on-line process for students to select their room using eRezLife, an online resource page for USJ residents to access housing forms, room condition reports, RA Programming, and more! Students will receive a selection time based on Priority Points; a points system that has replaced the lottery system that was previously used for housing selection in order to recognize students who are engaging in the residential experience. Throughout the academic year, resident students earn points for attending programs hosted by Residential Life and Student Affairs, for credits earned, cumulative GPA, and good conduct standing with the Student Affairs Office. Residential Life will be holding information sessions for students in January and February when students return from Winter Break with all the information about housing selection.

RANKINGS

- Top 10 University in MONEY's "Colleges That Add the Most Value 2017-2018"
- #2 in Niche's 2016 listing of "Best Location - Colleges in Connecticut"
- #23 U.S. News' "Best Value Schools 2019"
- #55 U.S. News' "Best Colleges - Regional Colleges in the North 2019"
- Top 10 in College Consensus' "Best Colleges in Connecticut 2017-2018"
- #1 private college in Connecticut where students win the most scholarship money - Student Loan Report 2017

USJ is a university where students earn a degree with value and values. We take great pride in the success of our students, faculty, and alumni. One way our value is recognized is through national rankings; below are some highlights including: [USJ Ranks #55 in "Best Regional Universities - North"](#) and [#23 in "Best Value for Regional Universities" in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings](#)

Spring 2019: Important Dates

- **Monday, Jan. 14**, spring semester begins!
- **Add/drop deadline:** The deadline to be able to add or drop a course varies by course. Students who may want to change courses, should carefully check the deadline for each course and contact the Office of the Registrar with any questions on 860.231.5225 or registrar@usj.edu.
- **Monday, Jan. 21**, In honor of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, there are no classes. On Monday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Hoffman Auditorium of the Bruyette Athenaeum, the University is hosting its [annual MLK Celebration](#), please join us!
- **March 9-16, Spring Break**, no classes. Students may choose to spend their break volunteering locally through USJ's Alternative Spring Break Week. To learn more, students should contact Liza Bocchichio, Community Engagement Assistant, 860.231.5449, lbocchichio@usj.edu
- **Friday, April 19**, the University is closed for Good Friday.
- **Friday, May 3**, last day of spring classes. **Week of May 6: Final Exams.**

- **Save the date: Monday, May 13, 6-8:30 p.m. USJ Commencement** for undergraduate and graduate students in the XL Center.

STAY CONNECTED

