

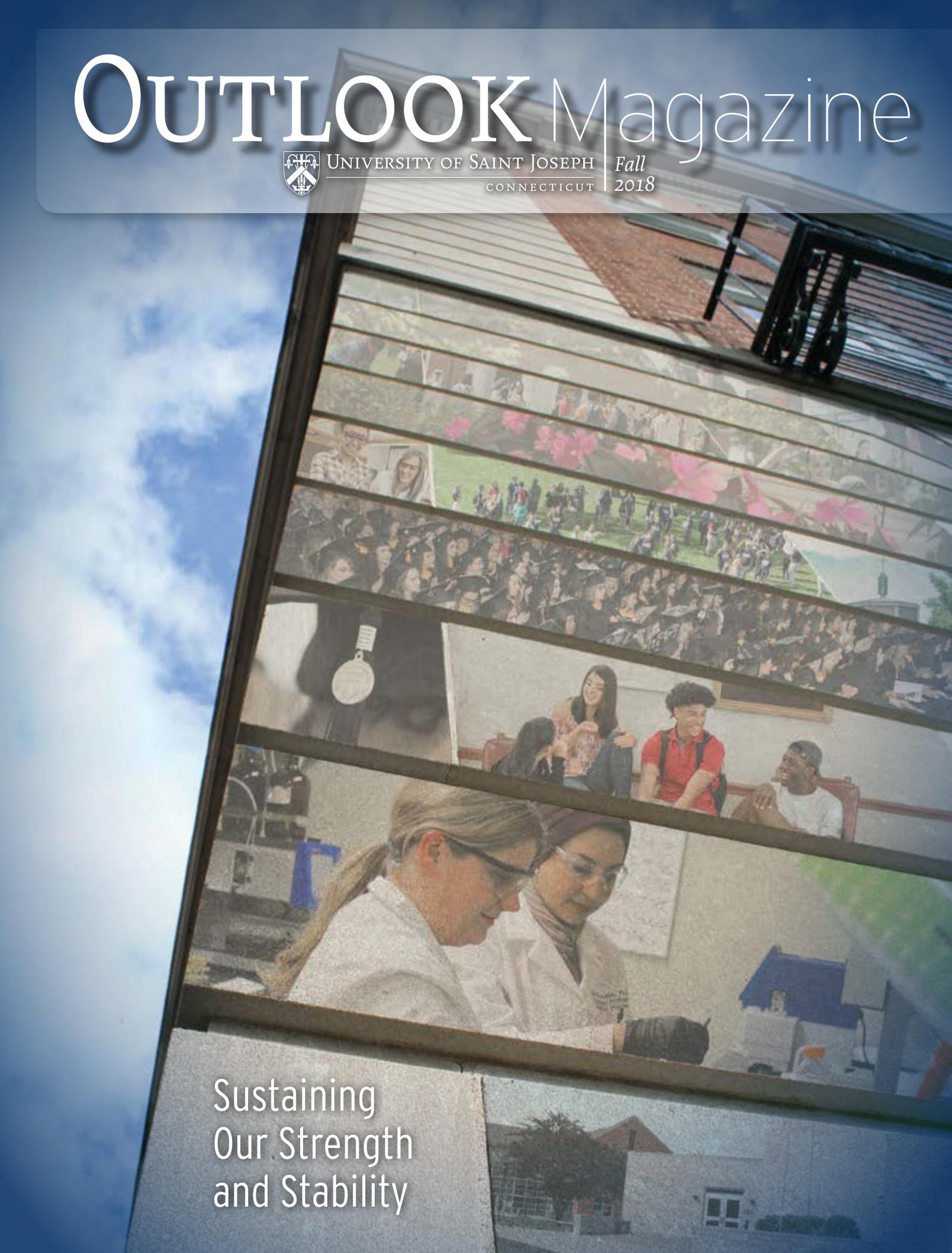
OUTLOOK Magazine



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
CONNECTICUT

Fall
2018

Sustaining
Our Strength
and Stability





BUILDING A LEGACY

By Maggie Pinney '95

In 1929, Colette Schauss DiLorenzo '48 arrived in New York Harbor clutching a much-beloved doll and accompanied by her parents, Josephine and Victor Schauss. Immigrants from France, Josephine and Victor believed that America offered their family untold opportunity. They steadfastly believed that through hard work and education, their family would grow and thrive in their new country.

An engineer by training, Victor Schauss was ahead of his time in his commitment to his daughter's education. Colette was just 15-years-old when her father died but, on his deathbed, he asked his wife to promise that she would do everything possible for Colette to go to college. As a young widow, Josephine worked as a seamstress to support the family while Colette committed herself to her studies.

The University of Saint Joseph — then Saint Joseph College — was the right place at the right time for this smart and highly motivated young woman.



After graduating with a degree in Chemistry, Colette became a microbiologist for the State of Connecticut Department of Health, where she worked for 31 years.

Colette and her husband Anthony raised three children: Anthony, Colette, and Therese. The children grew up hearing tales of their mother's time at "The College." They were convinced that, in fact, there was only *one* College — *the* College — Saint Joe's.

For decades, Colette supported her alma mater through regular contributions to the Saint Joseph Annual Fund and through her attendance at reunions and other alumni events. She maintained a lifelong friendship with her classmates Eleanor Sala Tambornini '48 and Patricia Regine Smith '48, who was the godmother to Colette's youngest daughter, Therese. In later years, Therese would bring her mother to reunions, delighting in the stories and laughter that these get-togethers elicited.

In 2017, Colette Schauss DiLorenzo died at the age of 91. Her three children decided that the most appropriate way to honor their mother would be to support her College. Their spirit of generosity led them to establish the Colette Schauss DiLorenzo Endowed Scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time in the fall of 2018 and will aid Saint Joe's students in perpetuity. The Scholarship will support immigrants or the children of immigrants, and preserve Colette's abiding belief that a Saint Joe's education changes not just one life, but many lives for generations.

"It feels like my mother will live on through this scholarship; her love of education and her love of the College and all that it stood for will live on. Her beauty will live on," said Therese. 🍷

For information about endowing a scholarship, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Maggie Pinney '95 at mpinney@usj.edu.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Diana Sousa, MBA

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
President Rhona Free, Ph.D.
Joshua Ingham
Elizabeth Marone '15
Maggie Pinney '95
Diana Sousa, MBA
Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Keyvan Behpour
Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17
Joel DeJong
Sam Dostaler
Andy Hart
John Marinelli
Steve McLaughlin
Spencer Sloan
Shana Sureck
Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

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

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PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



Dear Friends,

Each semester, life and studies begin anew on campus — but never more so than this fall, as our University has warmly welcomed and integrated nearly 100 aspiring young men into our full-time undergraduate programs and campus life. Our unwavering values and strategic vision for the future have enabled all of our students to experience the positive momentum and enhancements that we invested in and planned for in our academic programs, community partnerships, arts and culture opportunities, athletic teams, and facilities.

In this issue of *OUTLOOK*, our focus is on the University's strength and stability goals as part of the Strategic Plan 2020. We check in with successful alumni; talk to University leaders who are responsible for enrollment, retention, campus resources, and finances; and shine a spotlight on outstanding faculty and students. I'm excited for you to see how our University continues to evolve with updated facilities, modernized infrastructure, and a plan for continued growth in the future.

While campus life is changing, our Core Values, strong community, and commitment to volunteer engagement remain steadfast. Throughout the year, and especially during Mercy Week, the USJ community turns out to serve neighbors in need with helping hands and open hearts. One of the events you will notice in this issue is a free CPR training event that was open to the public. We were making a wish come true for Jasmin Flores '02, '04, who recently saved the life of a toddler here in Connecticut after he was part of a fatal car accident. We are proud to join in her effort and commitment to provide more access to CPR training for our community.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of *OUTLOOK* and that you will join us for upcoming events on campus. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Regards,

Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.
President



Living the Mission Year-Round at USJ

By Diana Sousa, MBA

Whether it's a diaper drive organized by the Nursing department in September or a community park clean up during Mercy in the City Spring Break, USJ students, staff, and faculty give back to the community with time, service, and donations throughout the year. Many of our community events have longstanding traditions that our alumni recall fondly.

Community organizations we have supported depend on USJ for ongoing service. From blood drives with the American Red Cross to student internships at Foodshare pantries, each act of service provides resources and staffing greatly needed by our community. According to USJ's Community Engagement Assistant Liza Bocchichio, "When you look at the data we've collected to measure the impact we are having in the community, our time is worth about \$30 per hour to these organizations. That time is well spent: In addition to improvements we make on-site and the resources that we donate, what we find to be most important is the immeasurable joy, faith, goodwill, and hope we create that can last a lifetime for someone in need."

One example — the Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony's Church Wellness

Center — is well-known to alums and students alike. For 13 years, USJ and the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry — the Church's outreach program — have partnered together to have students, faculty, and parishioners work at the Center's Sandwich Ministry, assisting the underserved people of Hartford by providing food and basic medical services for those without health care benefits.

Students from the departments of Nursing, Nutrition, and Pharmacy at USJ collaborate with the Wellness Center on a regular basis, with junior and senior nursing students participating as part of their clinical rotations during the academic year. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors serve as volunteers during the winter, spring, and summer breaks. Before students volunteer, Beth Fischer, RSM, '76, assistant dean of Student Affairs/Community Engagement, meets with them to discuss what they will be doing on-site and, later, has them write reflection pieces on their experiences. In addition, Fischer is the on-site coordinator and the University's liaison.

"For some students, it's putting what they learn in the classroom into action and making a difference in

people's lives. It's a ministry of the heart. Students engage with someone face-to-face, heart-to-heart, and they hear someone's story. That's very powerful," said Fischer.

"I continue to come back to the Wellness Center on a weekly basis not only because it is a passion of mine, but because I have learned that my presence there makes an impact on those who utilize the services provided. It has taught me that a simple smile, conversation, or taking a set of vital signs can change a person's life. Without the experiences I have had at the Wellness Center, I would not be the nurse I am today. It is truly an indescribable experience," said Meghan Chasse '16.

Other outreach programs of the Wellness Center include the Saint Elizabeth House at Mercy Housing and Shelter, Manna Community Meals, the Manna Assistance & Advocacy Food Pantry, the Sandwich Ministry, the Malta House of Care mobile van, and the Malta House of Care Food Pantry at St. Justin-St. Michael's Church. Each one of these programs allows students to use their specialties to serve the community in numerous ways.

PREPARING for the Next Generation

Multiple Sources of Revenue Continue to Support USJ's Financial Strength

By Diana Sousa, MBA

The current USJ Strategic Plan includes a goal to increase supplemental revenue sources by 2020. To meet the goal, priorities were established to build on existing revenue opportunities through more effective utilization of campus facilities. This required capital investment to ensure that USJ facilities provide an attractive venue to meet residential student programming needs while remaining a viable option for conference and meeting planners.

Where to begin was easy — with the safety and well-being of our students — creating a more vibrant residential campus and community. Work began in earnest with major renovations to Rosary and McAuley residence halls in late spring 2018 following commencement ceremonies. In addition, renovations to the O'Connell Athletic Center were undertaken during summer 2018 with the goal of welcoming returning students and student athletes, while more ambitious plans were being studied to provide an expanded athletic facility to better serve USJ students in the near future.

“The facelift of two residence halls, including upgrades to kitchens, shared lounge space, laundry facilities, and general infrastructure updates to building services and utilities really thrilled our students,” said USJ's Vice President for Student Affairs Ken Bedini, M.A. The University community is excited that the residential population has increased by 40% for the fall 2018 semester, which will help improve student engagement in academic services, research projects, and on-campus



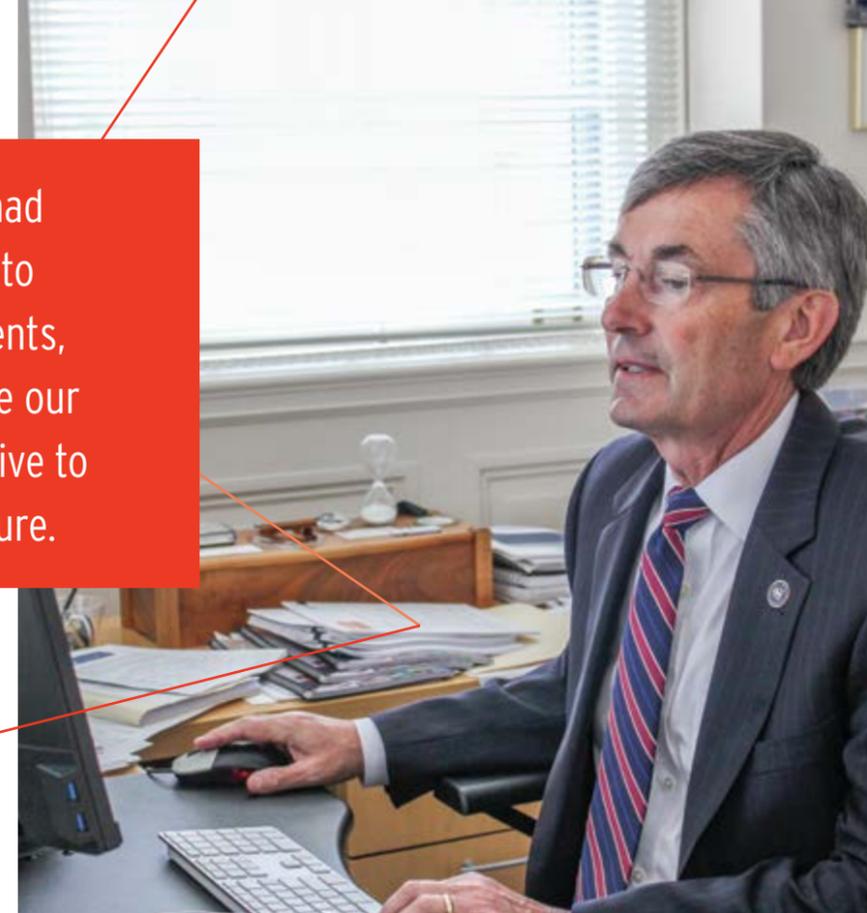
Ken Bedini

activities from the arts to athletics, and more.

Renovations to the O'Connell Athletic Center required closing the facility for the summer months impacting the community membership program and several events typically hosted by USJ on the campus grounds. Improvements to the O'Connell Athletic Center included an expansion to the fitness center, student-athlete training room, and renovations to the women's and men's varsity locker rooms and general locker rooms, and temporary athletic coach and staff office and meeting spaces.

Voted as “Best University/College Arts Venue” in *CT NOW*'s Best of Hartford Readers' Poll, it's no surprise that the schedule at the

As a critical first step, we had to invest in facilities to try to retain our residential students, attract new ones, and make our core facilities more attractive to potential renters in the future.



Shawn Harrington

Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities is packed with USJ activities, lecturers, performing arts shows, and third party rentals. While the Center is a desirable venue for a host of events that generate revenues which help to offset the cost of managing and operating the Center, the primary goal of the Center is to support the University mission and student programming needs. Greater than 75% of the programming of the Center is dedicated to USJ sponsored activities and events. As a University with core values that include compassionate service and hospitality, we are committed to providing access to our resources at a reasonable expense to our community while maintaining the quality of life on campus.

“During summer 2018, USJ was able to make significant improvements to ensure a safe and welcoming environment to students and visitors alike. The renovations to the residence halls, athletic center, and infrastructure improvements were a major step forward in preparing the USJ campus for further renovations and major new building initiatives planned in the coming

year. These improvements were an important first step in laying the foundation for future growth,” noted Senior Vice President for Finance and Strategy Shawn Harrington, M.S., C.P.A.

Looking forward, plans are being reviewed for a new athletic center, renovations to the McGovern Cafeteria and Student Lounge, and improving access to facilities where needed.

Now, whether you are in the newly-appointed McGovern Student Lounge or in Rosary Hall, you will feel our commitment to modern, safe, and comfortable facilities that welcome you to USJ. 🏡

Exceeding Expectations in Enrollment and Retention

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Over the past year, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has undergone a period of transition and transformation. Among the changes was the historic decision, made by the Board of Trustees, to open undergraduate enrollment to men. With all offices across campus working diligently toward the common goal of welcoming the first coeducational undergraduate class this fall, the University has achieved notable success, especially in student enrollment and retention.

“Goals Set, Goals Met’ was the rallying cry this year,” said Kimberly Crone, M.Ed., vice president for Enrollment Management, who credits the institution’s success to collaboration on campus. Beginning with the launch of a strategic marketing campaign to inform the public of the institutional shift and the vibrant future ahead, the University’s Office of Admissions then began working with leaders of academic departments to develop new programs for a changing student population.

“Our faculty moved forward with developing four new undergraduate programs, all in demand, based on market research confirming projected employment opportunities,” Crone explained. These four majors are Bioinformatics, Computer and Data Science, Health Science, and Sport Management and Promotion.

In addition to academic changes, many campus buildings received an upgrade to better accommodate male and female students, including Rosary and McAuley residence halls and the O’Connell Athletic Center.

Due to the hard work and collaboration throughout campus, USJ exceeded its original enrollment expectations. Based on extensive research, the undergraduate enrollment goal for 2018 was originally set at 245 new students, with a total of 50 male undergraduates. However, it soon grew apparent that the University would need to adjust those goals.

“By early 2018, all of the set goals were reached. We were in a position where we had received the total number of applications, at that point, that we thought we would receive throughout the whole cycle,” said Crone. “First-year applications increased 82% and transfer applications doubled. It was exciting news for USJ.”

The excitement continued when the University ultimately enrolled 306 new students, 96 of whom were men.

“The coeducation implementation team worked collaboratively to make sure that the appropriate discussions and the necessary planning took place over the course of the year so that we, as an institution, were ready for a larger group of incoming students this fall, including males,” Crone shared.

While the University continued reaching enrollment goals, the Division of Academic Affairs focused on enhancing their offerings for a changing student population. Since 2014, their efforts have been funded by a Title III Grant, which has successfully aided the University’s efforts to increase retention. Now at 83%, USJ’s retention rate is the highest it has been in 20 years.

Under the guidance of Provost and Title III Grant Coordinator Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., and Assistant Provost for Student Success and Retention Tami Devine Fagan, Ed.D., the Activities Director for the grant, the University has continuously developed innovative programs aimed at increasing student success. One important use of the funds was the second-floor renovation in the Pope Pius XII Library in 2016. This resulted in the establishment of the Academic & Career Services Center, which includes the Academic Advisement Center, Office of Career Development, Office of Accessibility Services, and the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE).

“The centralization into one space has afforded us the opportunity to really put our heads together and think strategically and collaboratively about the best way to support and engage our students,” said Devine Fagan. “It’s been a game changer.”

In 2017, Title III ensured the successful implementation of the Jays’ Network, which is made up of three communities: O’Connor, Kelleher, and McDonough. Designed to create unity among first-year students who are placed into one of the communities, the Network requires students to work together to earn points throughout the year in the hopes of winning a prize in the spring. The program, now in its second year, has proven a positive addition to student life, helping students build connections with peers and staff alike.

To increase these connections further, with the help of Title III, the campus also introduced the USJ Mobile app for smart phones. Implemented this fall, the app allows students to remain up-to-date on campus events — from academic lectures to Student Affairs activities.

“We recognized that, as faculty and staff, we are communicating one way and students are communicating



in another,” Devine Fagan explained. “Often, when we send out email messages, notifications of events, and other communication that seeks to engage students, they’re not consistently receiving them. So, we need to meet them where they are: on their phones. The hope is that this innovation will break down some walls between faculty, staff, and students, so that communication can be more directed and better received.”

With grant funding, the University also created the Collaborative Learning Space in the Library, which offers individual group tables equipped with large monitors. “The idea was to create a space on campus that would allow faculty to engage students, collaboratively, using state-of-the-art technology, ultimately improving the way our faculty are able to teach their students,” said Devine Fagan.

The University is also reexamining the academic support services offered in order to effectively serve the changing and diverse campus community. One example is the establishment of services directed toward USJ’s student-athletes — a growing percentage of the student population.

“It will include Advising and the CAE collaborating with the coaches to determine what specific supports their student-athletes are going to need, and how we help them navigate their academics while also balancing their commitment to sports,” said Devine Fagan.

It is innovation like this that will help the University maintain its high retention rate while continuing to usher in a new era in USJ’s history.

“It’s an exciting time because it’s new and it’s the birth of, potentially, a new culture and community. It’s important that right now we continue building the foundation that this particular group of students needs to be successful, get a diploma, and ultimately land a job,” remarked Devine Fagan.

Added Crone, “It’s an historic time, and we anticipate this is just the beginning. The best is yet to come.”



CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

By Elizabeth Marone '15

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) defines its relationship to its core value of Multiculturalism and Diversity by stating that the institution is, “committed to fostering the growth of an inclusive community that welcomes differences among community members and benefits from them.”

This is a belief that remains central to the University’s day-to-day activities in all facets of campus, including the Office of Human Resources. Each individual selected to work on campus offers a unique identity and set of experiences that enrich the University.

“As a human resources professional, I believe that multiculturalism and diversity are incredibly valuable in your employee base, not because it looks good when you’re putting out your marketing materials, but because it genuinely allows us to be better,” said Deborah Spencer, director of Human Resources.

To ensure that the University continues to evolve and improve, Human Resources provides resources to the campus community. For search committees, they conduct a workshop on best hiring practices, which not only focuses on increasing the diversity of the candidate pool but also the awareness of conscious and unconscious biases that could hinder the hiring process. Additionally, they have made a distinct effort to increase diversity sessions available at faculty and staff development days over the last several years.

However, the University knows it must move beyond hiring practices to reach its goal of a richer

environment; it must also create a culture of inclusivity where all members can thrive.

“Looking at our culture is as critical, if not more critical,” Spencer remarked. “You can have all the representation in the world and still have a culture that’s not inclusive. It’s not just about race or country of origin or family history; it’s also about physical ability, gender, thinking styles, and many other aspects of identity. We all come at things differently. By learning how to make space for those differences, we build a culture of communication that’s based on mutual respect. This, in turn, enables us to provide the best possible education and support to our students.”

To aid in the creation of this culture, University President Rhona Free, Ph.D., began a diversity and inclusion initiative in 2016, which resulted in the creation of the Diversity and Inclusion Council. Consisting of individuals from across the institution, the Council is responsible for evaluating ongoing diversity efforts and establishing areas for continued growth. In addition to reviewing policies and community concerns, the Council has implemented Diversity and Inclusion Conversations on campus.



(From L to R): Lisa Peruccio, Benefits; Rayna Dyton-White, J.D.; Deborah Spencer; Valerie Wilson, M.Ed., Assistant Director of Career Services

“We’ve used it as a place to do small group discussions about our own histories and assumptions, which has been really exciting because people get a chance to connect in ways that aren’t typical in the workplace,” said Spencer.

Another key piece in moving the University forward has been hearing thoughts and concerns of students, faculty, and staff through campus climate surveys. Initiated in 2015, the University distributes two surveys biannually: one focusing on diversity and inclusion and a second focusing on Title IX — a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on sex.

In order to heed the concerns of the campus community and establish an even more welcoming and inclusive environment, the University developed a new position: Director of Diversity and Inclusion/Title IX Coordinator. USJ is proud to welcome Rayna Dyton-White, J.D., in this role.

As the University continues to evolve in its history, communication will remain central to its growth in all areas.

“We’ve continued to engage more in a positive, proactive manner,” Spencer said. “We’ve done this because it’s the right thing to do — because of the mission and the values of the institution — not because things are bad and we have to fix them. Things are good and we have to continue making them better.”

BREAKING NEWS

➤ USJ’s Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities received an Arts Project grant of \$14,000 from the CT Department of Community Development, awarded for projects of artistic excellence aligned with the Relevance, Equity, Access, Diversity, and Inclusion (READI) framework. Funding will support USJ’s Latinx & Culture Series this year.



USJ Positioned to Grow, Aligned to Market Forces

By Diana Sousa, MBA

WHILE NO ONE CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has continuously benefited from leadership with the foresight and conviction to respond to, and get ahead of, external market forces while remaining steadfast to the University's Core Values. From the first strategic plan, crafted by the founding Sisters of Mercy, to the current Strategic Plan 2020, the University remains laser-focused on sustaining USJ for generations to come.

During the last decade, the University's academic and program offerings have been significantly expanded with an emphasis on meeting future student needs: the addition of USJ's Pharmacy campus in downtown Hartford; the addition of the Center for Applied Research and Education (CARE), providing for the expansion of programming and services for the Gengras Center community; the renovation and expansion of Lourdes Hall for the in-demand Physician Assistant Studies Program; a remodeled and integrated Academic and Career Services Center; modernized collaboration space in the Pope Pius XII Library; and infrastructure upgrades on USJ's main campus to support current and future growth opportunities.

"We have prioritized projects aligning the University's Master Plan with the USJ Strategic Plan 2020 in order to

proactively meet the expectations of students and faculty alike," said Shawn Harrington, M.S., C.P.A., senior vice president for Finance and Strategy.

To ensure that students of today and tomorrow have an opportunity to fully engage in a welcoming and vibrant community, the University is planning to provide a more dynamic, modern, and accessible Student Center. Plans are underway for major renovations to McGovern Hall that will allow USJ to not only support student activities and programs but also serve as a cultural hub for the student community experience. This multipurpose area will encourage students to expand their social circles and ultimately enhance the bond that students feel with the University. Students will enjoy this flexible and welcoming space designed to accommodate large public gatherings while also providing quiet areas ideal for study groups and club meetings.

Along with the renovations to McGovern Hall, increased enrollment calls for expanded athletic facilities to support intramural, club, and varsity athletic teams — soon to number 13. As the number of athletic programs grows, so too does the fan base and school spirit! Plans are underway to construct an addition to the O'Connell Center to accommodate more than 1,000 spectators, provide space for varsity and intramural teams to practice and compete,



and offer entertainment opportunities and memberships for the community at large.

The historic buildings are foundational to the University's character and serve as integral parts of a campus that is beloved by students, alumni, and the greater community. As the University moves forward with plans for renovations, care will be taken to ensure that project design and construction will employ and reflect best practices, and complement the existing campus architecture.

With the introduction of its first coeducational undergraduate class, increasing numbers of student-athletes and residential students, and continued overall academic program enrollment growth, USJ is poised to move into the public phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, *Vision & Values*.

Through the generosity of individuals, corporate partners, and foundations, USJ will achieve new levels of support for student scholarships, faculty salaries and research, experiential learning, and enhanced educational, residential, and recreational facilities. The future of USJ is bright and growing. 

For more information about how you can join the *Vision & Values* campaign for the future of USJ, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Maggie Pinney '95 at mpinney@usj.edu.



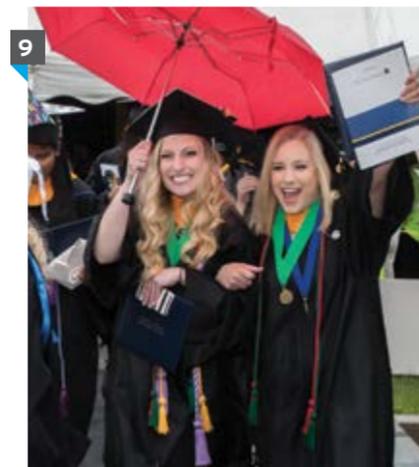
BEFORE

MCAULEY KITCHEN



AFTER

CAMPUS SNAP SHOTS



1. BioBlitz: April 20-21, 2018 USJ hosted its first BioBlitz – a 24-hour biological scavenger hunt that brought together scientists, students, faculty, and the community.

2. Annual Cardboard Boat Race: July 8, 2018 The 7th Annual Cardboard Boat Race on the Scantic River took place in East Windsor, Conn., where USJ students travel once a week year-round to test the water's E. coli levels. The boat race only allows two sheets of cardboard, a maximum of six rolls of duct tape, 1"x12"x10' of long lumber, and glue and assorted fasteners.

3. USJ students in the Community: Aug. 24, 2018 During Week of Welcome, USJ first-year students spent time working in the community, including at the Riverfront Recapture at Riverside Park.

4. Graduate Nursing Pinning: April 26, 2018 In April, USJ celebrated the Graduate Nursing Class of 2018 with the annual Pinning Ceremony, marking the completion of their program.

5. Kammy's Court: June 15, 2018 The Gengras Center's basketball court, now known as "Kammy's Court," was made possible by Noraleen and Scott LeClaire, whose daughter Kammy is a student at the School. In honor of her 16th birthday last year, Kammy's family and friends generously donated, ensuring the successful construction of this project.

6. Painting the Rock: April 25, 2018 USJ's tradition continued with the graduating class painting their names on the Rock outside the O'Connell Center.

7. Dance it Out: Aug. 24, 2018 The women's volleyball team had some fun at the Week of Welcome Pep Rally.

8. An Evening of Storytelling with Dovie Thomason: April 4, 2018 Dovie Thomason – a cultural educator, author, recording artist, and award-winning Lakota/Kiowa Apache storyteller – visited USJ to share Native American stories, offering attendees a better understanding of the cultures in the First Nations of North America.

9. Celebrating Graduation: May 13, 2018 Students from the Class of 2018 celebrate earning their diploma.

10 & 11. CPR Training: Sept. 20, 2018 Students, faculty, staff, and the community came together to gain life-saving CPR skills with USJ alumna Jasmin Flores '01, '04. A few months ago, Flores became a local hero after she saved a toddler from a horrific car accident in Connecticut.

USJ ATHLETICS YEAR IN REVIEW

FALL
SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

The USJ cross country team finished eighth out of 12 teams at the 2017 GNAC Championships under first-year head coach Stephen Allen. They were led by a 10th place individual finish out of 99 runners from junior Mia Tompkins (Meriden, Conn.), who completed the 5K race with a time of 20:22. The result earned the junior a spot on the All-GNAC Second Team, and she was also tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Tompkins also opened up the season strongly with a pair of top-15 individual finishes and, following her 14th-place result at the Trinity Invitational on Sept. 9, she was named the GNAC Corvias Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week for the first time in her career. USJ's best team result came at the Blazer Classic Invitational, when they took sixth and placed all five scoring runners inside the top-50.

SOCCER

The USJ soccer team concluded the regular season with an overall record of 9-5-1 and a 7-4 mark in GNAC play under third-year head coach Kelly Shimmin. The Blue Jays' seven conference wins tied them for the most conference wins since the 2014 campaign, when USJ finished 7-3-1 in league action. USJ qualified for the GNAC postseason tournament

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @USJ_BlueJays



Mia Tompkins



Lucy Roberge

for the 18th consecutive season and earned the fifth seed. They saw four players earn All-GNAC accolades, headlined by senior Jessica Spezzano (Watertown, Conn.), who earned a spot on the All-GNAC First Team after leading the team in points with 35 on a team-high 12 goals and GNAC-best 11 assists. Spezzano and junior Amanda Ghent (Portland, Conn.) picked up GNAC Player of the Week honors in back-to-back weeks after helping USJ open the season unbeaten over their first six matches.

TENNIS

The USJ tennis team recorded a 5-6 overall record and 2-4 GNAC record in the regular season under second-year head coach Karen Piazza, who was named the 2017 GNAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. They qualified for the GNAC postseason tournament for the fifth straight



Jessica Spezzano



Janell Molina

year and earned the fifth seed. USJ ended the regular season very strong, winning four of their final five matches, including a pair of shutouts, to secure their spot in postseason play. The team competed at the 2017 Grass Courts Doubles Championships held at the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. and saw juniors Lucy Roberge (Willington, Conn.) and Leah Nguyen (West Hartford, Conn.) advance to the second round of their flight. Freshman Emily McAllister (Bristol, Conn.) garnered GNAC Rookie of the Week honors after going undefeated (3-0) in singles action in the final week of the regular season.

VOLLEYBALL

The USJ volleyball team earned the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the second consecutive season and now garners the award for the fourth time in the past five years in a vote amongst the GNAC head coaches. The Blue Jays posted an overall record of 5-20 under seventh-year head coach Dejshona George. Junior libero/defensive specialist Janell Molina (Honolulu, Hawaii) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team for USJ.



Annmarie Masayda



McKenna Driscoll

SPRING
SPORTS

SWIMMING & DIVING

The USJ swimming & diving team posted its best dual-meet record in program history, finishing the season with a 4-2 overall mark, which included its first-ever win over Plymouth State, 134-128, on Jan. 12. The Blue Jays recorded a seventh-place finish at the GNAC Championships in December, racking up a total of 280 points, and were led by junior Annmarie Masayda (Watertown, Conn.), who posted 44 individual points on the weekend. The team broke a pair of school records at the 2018 NEISDA Regional Championships in February, including the 400-yard medley relay and the 100-yard IM. USJ placed 13th at the NEISDA Championships out of 20 teams with a total of 282 points, marking its best overall finish at the regional championship meet and a 106-point and three-place improvement from a season ago. The team earned CSCAA Scholar All-America honors for the sixth and seventh straight semesters and also garnered the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award.



Rajeen Mayo



Emily Bourassa

BASKETBALL

The USJ basketball team finished with a 9-16 overall record under second-year head coach Brandon Gade, matching their record from the 2016-17 season. They posted a 3-13 mark in GNAC action. The Blue Jays defeated Bay Path, 79-36, on the road in their season opener, marking the fifth time in the past six seasons that USJ has won its season-opening game. Saint Joseph placed runner-up in the 20th Annual USJ Tip-Off Tournament and senior Rajeen Mayo (Middletown, Conn.) earned All-Tournament Team accolades, averaging 18.0 ppg and 6.0 apg. Classmate Kayla Guest (Newington Conn.) was selected to play in the NEWBA Senior All-Star Classic following the conclusion of the season in March. Both Guest and Mayo also became the eighth and ninth players, respectively, to join the 1,000-point-scoring club during the 2017-18 campaign.

SOFTBALL

The USJ softball team registered a 23-15 overall record during the regular season, marking the eighth time in the past nine years that the Blue Jays have recorded a 20+ win campaign. They recorded a 15-9 mark in GNAC games to finish in a four-way tie for third place in the regular season standings and qualified for the GNAC postseason tournament for a ninth consecutive season. Three players earned All-GNAC honors, headlined by sophomore McKenna Driscoll (Bristol, Conn.), who was named the All-GNAC Second Team Designated Player. Classmate Amaria Sharon (Tolland, Conn.) and junior Kara Klimaszewski (Naugatuck, Conn.) earned All-GNAC Third Team accolades at second base and third base, respectively.

LACROSSE

The USJ lacrosse team finished the season with a 4-9 overall record and 1-9 mark in GNAC play under first-year head coach Mallorie Michalak. Senior goalkeeper Emily Bourassa (Bristol, Conn.), who played every single minute of every single game over her career in goal for the Blue Jays, finished third in the GNAC with 155 saves on the year. She concluded her career with an impressive 653 total stops. The team earned the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the second consecutive season and senior Danielle Bazzano (South Windsor, Conn.) was named to the All-GNAC Sportsmanship Team.

LESSONS IN STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

By Elizabeth Marone '15

For Marci Moreau '98, DAA'05, M.S., both her life and career have focused on resilience. A mother to four girls, one of whom was diagnosed with leukemia, she later faced illness again when her husband battled breast cancer for 11 years before passing away.

"I always said to my daughters: I get that bad things have happened to us, but the only response we have is to make something good out of it," she stated. "Otherwise, you are a victim. Taking our adversity and turning it into a strength is what resilience is all about."



This is a lesson Moreau has integrated into her courses at the University of Saint Joseph — her undergraduate alma mater — where she began teaching as an adjunct Psychology professor in 2000. Simultaneously, she founded an organization devoted to children fighting diseases, Time for Life, which offered supportive programming and a residential summer camp for the children and their families.

Cooking for the campers, Moreau further developed her interest in health, wellness, and organic food. By creating innovative dishes, she deepened her understanding of food as medicine and became inspired to start her own organic

food company, Naked Baking Ladies — an homage to the "naked" or raw nature of the food.

A tireless entrepreneur, Moreau remained dedicated to developing this company while supporting her husband in his battle with cancer. "It reinforced what I was doing," she remarked. "I think, had that not happened, it would've been really easy to give up something that I was working on day and night and not getting paid for."

After nearly eight years, Moreau's diligence paid off: Naked Baking

Ladies products are now certified organic and available at Big Y and Stop & Shop. The struggles she faced on this entrepreneurial venture, as well as the adversity she and her family dealt with along the way, regularly serve as inspiration for her Psychology courses.

"If I look at my career as a journey, it allows me to communicate to my students the importance of having passion. It was serendipitous. A lot of the reasons why I ended up where I am were not popular or glamorous; it was a lot of pain. Because of that, what I always want to convey to my students is that I want them here and I want them to learn. I want them to reach their goals and to strive for whatever their passion is. But I want them to understand their story and integrate their story into that," she said.

Through course projects that ask students to delve into their past, reflect on impactful experiences, and analyze those events using psychological research, students learn theories and facts while simultaneously learning more about themselves.

"It allows them to understand what happened to them. By the time we're done, they begin to realize they can be empowered by their stories," she said. "When you see that spark they get from having new information or dealing with something difficult in their life, it is motivating. It makes me realize there's a purpose to what I'm doing and that it will make a difference." ❧

Learn more about Naked Baking Ladies at: www.nakedbakingladies.com

SUCCESS IN FACULTY-MENTORED RESEARCH

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Ashley Bill '17, Pharm.D.'20, sought faculty-mentored research opportunities as an undergraduate student in the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Biochemistry program. Now a second-year Pharmacy student, her decision has led to a wealth of valuable opportunities.

"I love a challenge when it comes to learning new concepts, and USJ has exceeded my expectations," Bill said.

In the summer of 2015, she began working with Ola Ghoneim, M.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Together, they have focused on Ghoneim's two main areas of research, one of which led Bill to receive a prestigious research scholarship. The Gateway to Research Scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE), awarded to talented pharmacy students enrolled in programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), provides students with an opportunity to participate in a faculty-mentored research project.

A competitive scholarship, only two students from any given pharmacy program can apply each year, making Bill's achievement even more meaningful. "It was a pleasure to receive this award in order to help continue my research while I continue my education," Bill remarked.

Prior to this success, she was awarded two USJ undergraduate research grants — one in 2015 and the second in 2016 — which are sponsored by the Provost's Office. With her extensive research experience, Bill has also had the chance to present at conferences. In addition to USJ's annual Symposium Day, she has presented regionally and nationally at conferences, including the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference.

Further diversifying her academic career, Bill also earned co-authorship on two full manuscripts at the Journal of Chemical Education and Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry, alongside members of USJ's Pharmacy faculty.

"The professors here are extraordinary and have experience and knowledge in their fields," she said. "They not only teach, but help us in making sure we succeed in class and in our intended future careers."

I love a challenge when it comes to learning new concepts, and USJ has exceeded my expectations. ❧❧



Outside the laboratory, Bill has been involved in student organizations since her undergraduate days. A member of both the Chemistry Honor Society and the Tri-Beta Honor Society while earning her bachelor's degree, she now actively serves in organizations like the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. (Zeta Iota Chapter).

Whether in the classroom, laboratory, or conferences, Bill's determination and varied real-world experience ensure she will graduate with the knowledge and skill necessary for a successful career in her field. Discussing her future, she said, "I know that with the experiences I received through classes and research, I will be ready for any path in pharmacy."

To watch an extended interview with Ashley, visit www.usj.edu/AshleyBill/. ❧

From Teacher to Published Author

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.



DAVID WASSERMAN, M.A., is a role-model to his students, wife, and daughter. A busy schedule didn't stop him from fulfilling his dream of becoming an author. Wasserman graduated from Stonehill College in 2008 with bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and English Literature. He then earned his master's in Special Education from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 2012. As a teacher at Marlborough Elementary School, he makes his lessons relatable in order to show students that their written material has more meaning than a grade.

Wasserman enjoyed his experience at USJ. He earned his master's in Special Education to help enhance his teaching skills in the classroom, and more effectively serve students of all abilities. After completing his degree, he asked himself, "What's next?" While balancing a career,

schoolwork, and preparing to get married, Wasserman reminded himself not to forget his passion for writing.

"Going through USJ's program showed me that I can do something else in addition to teaching and pursue multiple dreams," said Wasserman. "After university, I was reading less and less. From there, I forced myself to get back into that. It was from then that I began writing little poems in my spare time. Eventually, I compiled hundreds of poems." These scribbles became a book of poetry when his wife, Katie Wasserman, suggested that he publish them.

His first book, *Tiny Footcrunch*, was published in April 2018. This book contains 100 small poems divided into 10 chapters. Each chapter carries a different emotion, such as love, humor, curiosity, fear, and more.

Published by Unsolicited Press, he has received positive reviews, interviews, and press for his book. His second book, entitled *Dealing*, is based on tarot cards and will be released in July 2019. He's excited for this new project because it will feature illustrations by Project Runway Designer Helen Castillo and have poetry focused on one's higher self.

To give back to the community, Wasserman will be donating 10% of the proceeds to Literacy Inc. — a charity based in New York City — to promote reading for underprivileged children in the city. "This charity was the perfect choice. It promotes teaching for me, the city of New York for Helen, and reading and literature for Unsolicited Press," Wasserman remarked.

Wasserman is very proud of his accomplishments. He wants to continue writing and sharing his poetry with the world. His advice to aspiring writers is, "Don't throw anything away. Some of my favorite poems were originally scribbles I wrote down in the spur of the moment. Always keep your materials and see the potential in your work."

Learn more about David Wasserman by visiting: www.davidwassermanbooks.com

Psychology Graduate: Prestigious Award Recipient and Teacher

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

AMIE SENLAND '07, Ph.D., left her mark after graduating from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 2007. With a bachelor's degree in Psychology and minors in Child Study and Biology, Senland was ready to take on the field of Psychology. During her time at USJ, Senland was an active member of the community. She was a research assistant, professional writing and psychology content tutor, and secretary and co-president of the Psi Chi Honor Society.

Graduating USJ Summa Cum Laude, Senland earned her master's and doctoral degrees from Fordham University in Applied Developmental Psychology. This program "focused on human development across the life span with a strong commitment to social justice," which was a perfect match for her research and contributions to the field. Now, she's a laboratory coordinator and lecturer in Psychology at Trinity College, where she loves teaching students.

"I like getting to know the students and being able to support them through their educational journeys. At USJ, I had a really good experience; I actually got to know the professors. They did a really good job of mentoring me, so I would like to be able to give that back to students," said Senland. She also described USJ as close-knit, supportive, and encouraging, which



are some of the many reasons why she attended the University.

Senland hit a major milestone in her career last year. She was the recipient of the 2017 Kuhmerker Dissertation Award from the Association for Moral Education (AME) for an outstanding doctoral dissertation. Her dissertation was entitled, "A Mixed Methods Analysis of Moral Reasoning and Empathy during the Transition to Adulthood in Young Adults with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder."

When Senland discusses her professional and academic achievements, she emphasizes the impact of her mentors: USJ Psychology professors Elizabeth Vozzola, Ph.D., and Mary Whitney, Ph.D., and Fordham Psychology Professor Ann

Higgins-D'Alessandro, Ph.D. While earning her bachelor's degree, Vozzola and Whitney assisted Senland on her honors thesis, "Children's Moral Understanding of Dumbledore, the Wisdom Figure in Harry Potter's World." They also served as supervisors on her various projects over the years.

Outside the classroom, Senland raises monarch butterflies and remains an active member of the USJ community. Prior to her current position, she worked as an adjunct and visiting assistant professor at USJ. Senland met lifelong friends and still conducts research projects with Vozzola. Their next project will focus on college students' faith development, which will involve USJ and Trinity College students.

Military Veteran Aims to Make Difference as OB/GYN

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.



STEPHEN GRAVES, M'13, graduated from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 2013 with a master's degree in Biochemistry after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada Reno in 2009. Always aspiring to pay for his own education, travel the world, and gain a global perspective, he made the life-changing decision to join the United States Marine Corps in 2006.

"I was in the Marine Corps for 10 years and got off active duty in 2016," said Graves. "USJ was great for me because I was deployed in Afghanistan for a portion of it, and the program director and the other professors were really good about accommodating my needs, but still allowing me to learn, which was hard to find in a lot of places. The

Biochemistry classes were truly beneficial prior to medical school."

During his time in the Marines, Graves earned prestigious awards, wrote publications, and participated in honor societies. Additionally, he held numerous positions in the Marine Corps as both Enlisted and an Officer, including: Scout Sniper, Infantry Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, and Reconnaissance Platoon Commander. During his deployment in Afghanistan, he began his journey into obstetrics-gynecology (OB/GYN).

"While deployed as an infantry officer in the Marine Corps, I saw daily examples of Afghani women suffering from want of basic freedom and health care. Their needs relegated to the sidelines by society, they and their children experienced illness and tragedy that I still struggle to comprehend," Graves remarked. "In medical school, I found OB/GYN to be a high-impact opportunity to care not only for individual women, but for their families as well."

Graves is currently enrolled in the Feinberg School of Medicine and Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is in a dual program to earn his M.D. and MBA, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2019. While Graves has a passion for medicine, he also wanted to learn the business side of the health care system.

"The way that I look at it is that the majority of problems in health care systems, whether they are in health care systems within the U.S. or elsewhere, is that they do not really have medical solutions; they have organizational, structural, and public health solutions. For the most part, the United States is good with their knowledge on health care. Training more is not going to fix our medical system; we need to make our health care systems more effective. We have to improve our delivery. That is why I wanted to do it," said Graves.

Out of all of his accomplishments, Graves is most excited for his newest publication, "Scholarship Support for Veterans Enrolling in MD, JD, and MBA Programs" in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). It discusses veteran scholarship support among M.D., J.D., and MBA programs, and how there is a discrepancy between veteran support in M.D. programs and other professional programs. This is the first in a series of studies that Graves and his colleagues are conducting. In the future, they will specifically discuss the care of the nation's female veterans.

A proud husband, soon-to-be father, and future doctor, Graves looks forward to collaborating with the University of Saint Joseph for veterans education in the future. 🇺🇸

Turning Tragedy into Triumph

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

JOHN LALLY, M'07, APRN, is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and executive director of Today I Matter Inc. For over 30 years, Lally has worked as a psychiatric nurse in a variety of settings, including hospitals, community health centers, and psychiatric units. He now owns his own private practice, John H. Lally APRN LLC., in East Windsor, Conn.

"I've always been interested in medicine and health. In college, I worked part time as an orderly and fell in love with the nursing field. Working alongside nurses, knowing a lot about the profession, and having my wife as a nurse really drew me in," Lally remarked. "I think nursing is the best profession. It's a combination of science and working with people in a helping profession."

Lally graduated from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 2007 with a master's degree in Nursing. Earlier he had earned his associate's degree in Nursing from Springfield Technical Community College in 1978, a bachelor's degree in Psychology from University of Connecticut (UConn) in 1986, and a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from UConn in 1989.

"Compared to other universities, USJ's Nursing program offered a variety of tracks to choose from. My graduate classes were the perfect size. It was easy to engage in discussions and receive feedback from my colleagues and professors," said Lally. While his professional life was going smoothly, he faced obstacles in his family life.



Tragedy struck the Lally family in January 2016 when their son, Timothy Lally, died from a heroin overdose. Timothy was a passionate musician who struggled with mental illness and substance abuse. To honor his son, Lally created Today I Matter Inc. to reduce the stigma and shame of mental illness and addiction, and promote the community's physical, emotional, and mental health.

"Being a psychiatric nurse practitioner and not being able to save my own son was difficult. This is part of my grieving and my reaction to my son's struggle, to try shedding light on an unfortunate situation," Lally said. "Through public speaking, education, and advocacy, my goal is to promote awareness about mental health and addiction. We also offer scholarships as a way of giving back to the community by encouraging activities that enhance self-esteem."

Fighting the stigma around people with mental illness and addiction, Lally's organization aims to change perspectives and promote more understanding and compassion for those who struggle. One way is through their "Memorial Poster Project," which travels the state and was displayed in Washington, D.C. Large posters display the names of individuals who have died from overdose, as well as their interests and hometown, in order to show them as actual people, not just addiction statistics. Because of positive feedback, Lally's initial 15 posters in June 2018 have grown to 147. He hopes to see his organization continue to grow in the next few years.

For more information on Today I Matter, please visit: www.todayimatter.org and on Facebook at "Today I Matter." 🇺🇸

REUNION 2018

USJ staff, alumni, and student volunteers welcomed more than 200 alumni and friends for a day of remembering, reminiscing, and reconnecting. The day began with a milestone breakfast for the Classes of 1948–1968 (50th Reunion) and 1993 (25th Reunion) with President Free. Alumni packed the AV classroom to enjoy a lecture on American Painters by Dorothy Keller, M’85, C’97, DAA’99, H’17, M.Ed., professor of Fine Arts at the University of Saint Joseph, and a panel discussion on Service Learning, led by Beth Fischer, RSM, ’76, assistant dean of Student Affairs/ Community Engagement. Alumni gathered for the traditional parade of classes from Bruyette Athenaeum to McGovern Hall, where they enjoyed lunch, heard from President Free, and participated in the Alumni Association Annual meeting. The afternoon allowed alumni to gather with their classmates; meet with faculty, staff, and students at the Connections on the Quad; and participate in a book discussion led by Associate Provost Tami Devine Fagan ’97, Ed.D. The day concluded with the Reunion Liturgy, followed by the President’s Reception and the unveiling of two new Presidential Portraits — Sister Mary Payton Ryan, Ph.D., and Winifred E. Coleman, D.H.L.

Reunion 2019 will honor all classes with a special emphasis on those ending in 4s and 9s. If you are interested in working on the Reunion Committee for 2019, please contact Tonja Russo at trusso@usj.edu or 860.231.5447.



ALUMNI NEWS

Mary Dillon Dickerson ’89, P’15, P’16, is your new Alumni Association President, elected on Sept. 15, 2018. Dickerson graduated with a degree in Accounting and is now an Economic Development Consultant in Portland, Conn. She is also one of 10 family members that has attended the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). Prior to being President of the Alumni Association, Dickerson served as the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee Chair for two years.

On the day of Reunion 2018, Antonella Maccarone ’98, M’11, was elected as Vice President of the Alumni Council. After graduating with a degree in Management, Maccarone came back to Saint Joe’s to receive her master’s degree in Counseling. Currently, she is a school counselor at Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies in Bloomfield, Conn. This past January, Maccarone was instrumental in celebrating 25 years of Division III athletics at USJ, representing her team and rallying teammates to join.

The Alumni Council would also like to announce the new chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Justine (MJ) Hockenberry ’15, who will serve in this position for the next two years. Hockenberry graduated from USJ in 2015 with a degree in Public Policy & Advocacy. She currently serves on the Town Council for South Windsor, Conn. Rita Bayer ’05 will chair the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee, after serving on the committee for three years. Bayer graduated with a degree in Environmental Science and recently retired after nearly 20 years of service to USJ.

Congratulations Mary, Antonella, MJ, and Rita! Thank you to all current and past council members for their work. If you are interested in joining the council or a committee, please contact Katie DaSilva Burke ’15, M’17, at kdasilva@usj.edu or 860.231.5364.

Special thanks to Alisa Sasic ’05 for her distinguished service as President of the Alumni Council from 2015 through 2018.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- Mary Dillon Dickerson ’89, P’15, P’16 *President*
- Antonella Maccarone ’98, M’11 *Vice President*
- Briana Reney ’14, M’15 *Secretary*
- Michelle O’Connell ’04 *Chair, Alumni Engagement Committee*
- Rita Bayer ’05 *Chair, Distinguished Alumni Committee*
- MJ Hockenberry ’15 *Chair, Nominating Committee*
- Susan Conti Root ’68 *Representative, Fairfield Club*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Washington, D.C. Alumni Luncheon
Friday, Nov. 2, 2018
The Georgetown Club, Noon

Chapel Bells Mass
Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018
The Connor Chapel of Our Lady
USJ Campus, 4 p.m.

Festival of Lights
Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018
The Connor Chapel of Our Lady
USJ campus, 4 p.m.

Alumni Night at Women's and Men's Basketball Games
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018
O’Connell Athletic Center
Men’s Basketball vs. MCLA, 1 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Suffolk, 3:30 p.m.

GRANTING OPPORTUNITIES

By Elizabeth Marone '15

As a not-for-profit institution, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) relies on generous donations from alumni, as well as funding from grants, to provide the distinctive academic programs for which it is repeatedly recognized.

“Grants at USJ contribute to the strength and stability of the institution by allowing us to implement special projects to support our students and faculty that we might not otherwise be able to afford,” explained Laura Martineau, M.A., Grants Development Officer.

One special project is the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program. Designed for students enrolled in the traditional four-year B.S. in Nursing program, the \$1.3 million in scholarship aid is awarded to individuals who identify within a certain income limit and meet specific academic qualifications. Through this program, the University is working to achieve its goal of increasing the number of registered nurses in the state from diverse economic, social, and financial backgrounds.

For another student-centered program, which was partially funded by the CTNext Higher Education Initiative, USJ collaborated with two local institutions: the University of Hartford and Capital Community College. Select students from each institution participated in a 10-week collaborative learning experience focused on entrepreneurship and targeted product development.

about by grant funding, the participants gained valuable real-world experience that will give them a competitive edge in job searches and benefit them in their future careers.

In addition to projects completed by the University itself, its laboratory schools — the Gengras Center and the School for Young Children — also benefit greatly from grant funding.

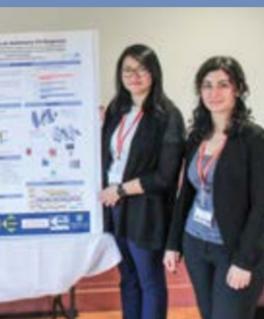
Most recently, the Gengras Center received two grants that will be put toward a Life Skills Lab: one from Metro Realty for \$50,000 and another from the Ensworth Foundation for \$30,000. Located in the School, the lab — set up as a fully-equipped apartment — will offer students a space to develop and practice daily living skills outside the classroom.



“Creating a living skills lab has been a goal for the Gengras Center for many years,” said Director Michelle Lestrud, M.Ed., C.A.G.S. “The space will be used for students to develop functional skills that will benefit them well into the future. With the support of this grant, we have the opportunity to create a fully accessible space rarely seen in special education programs.”

Because of the grants awarded to the University and its laboratory schools, USJ has the opportunity to grow and develop, ultimately continuing its tradition of strength.

“Funding agencies don’t want to award grants to organizations that don’t already demonstrate strength and stability, because they want to be sure that their investments will be used wisely and truly help the community,” said Martineau. “Just receiving a grant — especially a large, multi-year grant — is an indication that the external funding community thinks well of the University and believes that it is worth supporting.”



In this Integrated Solutions Laboratory Experience (ISLE), small groups observed the day-to-day challenges faced by students from the Gengras Center and identified and tested innovative technological solutions to help individuals with Autism Spectrum

Disorders or other disabilities. With the help of faculty from all three institutions, as well as the guidance of private-sector mentors, students designed and developed prototypes of assistive technology to bring to market. Thanks to this unique opportunity brought

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2018

Since 1974, the University of Saint Joseph Alumni Association has presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) annually to outstanding alumni and community members. The 2018 DAA ceremony was celebrated on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018, to kick off Alumni Weekend. Four individuals were honored for the achievements in their professional fields or communities.



- **Marie Benoit-Connors '83** received the Nightingale Health Science Award for her achievements in the health sciences. Marie’s humanitarian efforts; long-standing work in Carrefour, Haiti; founding of her non-profit organization, Helping Haitian Children; and dedication to smoothing the transition for newly-arrived refugees from Africa and Asia to the Hartford community are outstanding models for all.

- **Paula Ballantyne DeSilva '68, Ph.D.**, received the Mary Rosa McDonough Award for her passionate commitment to people with disabilities, her volunteerism, and development of two non-profits: Sri Lanka Tsunami Relief, Inc. and Quilts2Heal, Inc.

- **Dayne Laskey, Pharm.D., DABAT**, assistant professor of Pharmacy, received the Winifred E. Coleman Service Award for his dedication and commitment to USJ. Since arriving at the University in 2013, Dr. Laskey founded and grew the USJ Medicine Garden, located in Elizabeth Park, and regularly provides tours and lectures of the Garden to groups from USJ and the local community.

- **Sherry Stearley Neuner '73** received the Sister Fay O’Brien Education Award for promoting the growth of the whole person in a caring environment. Sherry volunteers with Teach Beyond, a Christian organization that provides support for international programs to teach English, form relationships, and spread the love of God. Sherry travels to Moldova each summer to volunteer; year-round she develops curriculum, recruits staff, raises funds, and coordinates local Moldovan volunteers.

Congratulations to the 2018 honorees. Nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards will open in January and details will be posted at www.usj.edu/DAA and on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/AlumniUSJ](https://www.facebook.com/AlumniUSJ)).

If you are interested in being a part of the DAA Committee for 2019, please contact Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17, at kdasilva@usj.edu or 860.231.5364.

CLASS NOTES

Keep the USJ community informed! Send news on your career, family, education, and more for the next edition of Outlook magazine's Class Notes to Elizabeth Marone '15 at emarone@usj.edu.

Marie LeVan '36 celebrated her 110th birthday in September with family, friends, and a few USJ members, including President Rhona Free and Diane Burgess, director of Leadership Giving.



Antonina "Ann" Uccello '44, H'71, DAA'78, received a warm welcome from Hartford Yard Goats' fans when she attended her first game in September. As former mayor of the capital city, Ann brought good luck to the team who clinched a 6-2 win that night.



Helen Carone Bucior '50 and Pamela Krist Atwood, M'01, DAA'12, enjoyed a day together this summer.



Roselee Barbagallo Fanelli '61, M'66, DAA'11, is a proud grandmother to Frankie Fanelli, who is entering her junior year in the Writing Conservatory at the Orange School of the Arts in California, and Cece Fanelli, who is starting ninth grade in the Production and Design Conservatory.

Karen Mellon Oddi '61 retired from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 2017, following 39 years of leadership in faith formation and pastoral ministry at parish and archdiocesan levels. Previously an archivist for the archdiocese, Karen now volunteers in the same role for the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery.

Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62, DAA'17; Isabel Doerfler Richard '62; Judy Broggi LeSage '62; and Patricia Doba Hensing '61 gathered in Illinois for a relaxing luncheon

filled with great conversation and many happy memories.

The oldest grandchild of **Mary Polka Potter '65** is in her first year of medical school at the University of Connecticut.

Christina Centola Wofford '67 and Andrew Wakefield Wofford, Jr., celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 8, 2018. The proud parents of two sons and grandparents to five grandsons commemorated their milestone with a Viking Cruise on the Seine and a tour of Wyoming.



Gale DiSabato Dickau '68, M'78, DAA'94, retired in 2017, after 50 years of teaching, and is now directing grant programs funded by Bristol Central High School alumni.

Megan Gavin, daughter of **Molly Rees Gavin '71, DAA'11**, was named one of *Hartford Business Journal's* 40 Under 40.

Cissy Gosselin Claypool '76 and Judy Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, DAA'16, Ph.D., enjoyed a day on campus visiting with President Rhona Free.



Mary Egan Larsen '77, M'82, has compiled her second collection of poems, *Spirit and Rhyme*, which was published by her husband's home business, Larsen Audiographics. A retired special education teacher currently working part time in local school systems, Mary's first collection, *A Lifetime of Rhyme*, was copyrighted in 1995.

Laura Garceau Cyr '79 retired in 2017, after 38 years in the Naugatuck school system. She served as a special education teacher for 20 years and as Director of Special Services for 18 years.

Margaret E. Kelley '79, J.D., a longtime prosecutor in the Bridgeport courthouse, was recently named the new state's attorney for the Ansonia and Milford Judicial District.

Rita Troy Weidman '79 hiked the Dolomites in August 2018 with her husband Tom and two daughters, Monica and Gianna.



Patricia Y. VanInwagen, M'84, is retiring this year, after 20 years of teaching full time in West Hartford Public Schools.

The daughter of **Mary Aitken Mitchell '91**, Hannah Mitchell, graduated from East Catholic High School and is now attending USJ. She is excited to be part of the same wonderful community as her mother.

Rita Bayer '05 retired after nearly 20 years of service to the University of Saint Joseph.

Jim Caldwell, M'05, a graduate of the Marriage and Family Therapy program, has retired in Boiling Springs, S.C. An Approved AAMFT Supervisor, he worked in N.Y., Mass., Conn., Tenn., Ala., and S.C. He would like to hear from other class members and faculty via email at jim@scmft.com or his website at www.scmft.com.

Meghan Thibodeau '07 and Roberta Zack '06, M'08, are married and live in Enfield with their daughter. Meghan is an executive assistant at CoBank in Enfield. In addition to her role as a strategy and operations consultant at Slalom consulting, Roberta is a Military Intelligence Sergeant in the Army National Guard based out of Groton, CT.

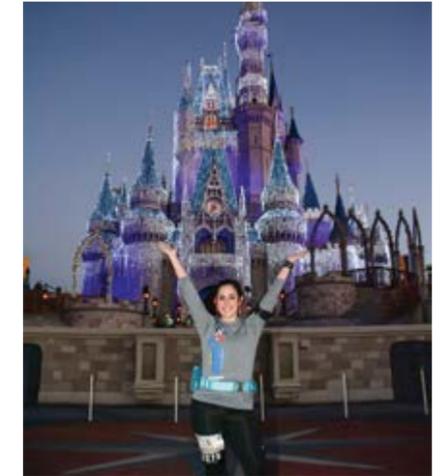
Katelyn Mike '13 is working as a fourth-grade special education teacher at a charter school in Providence, R.I., and will be finishing her second master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2019.

Anna Slupecki '13 was promoted from floater pharmacist to staff pharmacist at Walgreens Pharmacy and recently got engaged.

Joy Zuzel, M'14, is currently the Outpatient Supervisor of the Behavioral Health Department at United Community Family Services

in Norwich, and has a small private practice specializing in EMDR treatment.

Katie DaSilva Burke '15, M'17, ran her first marathon in Walt Disney World this year.



Susanne "Susie" Dickerson '15, '17, Pharm.D.'18, recently accepted a position with Walgreens as a pharmacist.

Elizabeth "Libby" Dickerson '16 competed at the 2018 U.S. National Target Championship in Dublin, Ohio in August.



Jasmine McLean '16, M'18, is currently working as an IICAPS Clinician at the Boys and Girls Village in Milford, where she offers intensive clinical services and support to children and youth returning from out-of-home care or who are at risk of requiring out-of-home care due to psychiatric, emotional, or behavioral difficulties.

IN MEMORIAM

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

LUCILLE KUHNLY '40
June 30, 2018

VIVIAN STEPHENSON '45, DAA'89
April 4, 2018

MARILYN HAYES SNOW '46
June 9, 2018

JEAN-MARIE DALY LEE '48
August 31, 2018

MARY KELLY GREENE '49
May 9, 2018

JOSEPHINE DEGRANDI MASCOLO '49
September 14, 2018

CORRINE ZINNO NOLAN '49
April 2018

MARY BOWMAN COWLES '50
June 1, 2018

RUTH ANN HAGAN DERUS '51
May 7, 2018

ELIZABETH BARRETT WOOLLACOTT '51
August 31, 2018

MARY JANE FORD WROBLE '51
April 6, 2018

BARBARA MCCARTHY FRIESTEDT '52
July 21, 2018

JOAN ALTIPARMAKIS PETRAKIS '52
February 20, 2018

MARY ROCHE FREDERICKS '53
April 1, 2018

HELEN T. GRANT '53
Unknown

MARGERY DOYLE MCMAHON '53
March 11, 2018

JEAN BRODERICK MULPETER '54
March 14, 2018

ANN MARIE SHUGRUE '54
June 2, 2018

KATHLEEN QUIRK BUTLER '56, M'87
July 1, 2018

CLARE LYNCH CLARK '56
September 7, 2018

ROSANN CONRAN '57
February 19, 2018

PATRICIA COLLINS BOYLE '58
June 13, 2018

ELLEN EGAN DELANEY '58
August 31, 2018

ELIZABETH CAREY '59
March 18, 2018

JUDITH MOZZER '60
July 24, 2018

KATHERINE O'BRIEN '60
April 15, 2018

ANITA PENSIERO '60
August 26, 2018

BARBARA MORIN '64
March 23, 2018

FAITH SCALISE CHURCHILL '65
May 21, 2018

ELAINE DEASY, RSM, '67, M'75, M'79
June 18, 2018

ELIZABETH DZURNAK '67
June 7, 2018

MARIE FENTON, RSM, '67, M'85
March 19, 2018

PATRICIA LOY '69
May 19, 2018

LORIANNE HOENNINGER '76
March 5, 2018

SHARON SMICHENKO KEEGAN '80
June 7, 2018

CAROLYN SHEARS, M'81
April 27, 2018

FAY CLARKE JOHNSON '82, M'93
September 17, 2018

JOANNE KELLY COURSEY '85, M'98
March 10, 2018

ELIZABETH NABETEESA NABETA '89
March 2, 2018

LINDA CHRISTOLINI CHAMBERLAIN '90
April 7, 2018

AUDREY HELMING DUBAY '90
July 5, 2018

BARBARA CULTRERA DICOCO '91
May 21, 2018

ELIZABETH SIMPSON ROBERTS '93
July 5, 2018

ANN SABOL, M'94
July 1, 2018

PATRICIA THRALL MCEVILA '95
August 20, 2018

SUSAN BUSH, M'97
July 31, 2018

LYNN DENINO-FAHEY '97, M'00
May 29, 2018

BARBARA COUTURE MOBILIA '00
May 18, 2018

JEFFREY BARAGLIA-PALMER, M'07
April 12, 2018

Because of the generous support of alumni and friends like you, students thrive at the University of Saint Joseph. They study, overcome challenges, and participate in community service. They compete, perform, and pray. They laugh, exercise, and make new friends. Most importantly, they graduate ready to make a difference in their local and global communities.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT:

- **92% of students** participate in experiential learning
- **85% of students** studying the sciences or health care were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation
- USJ was **ranked top tier, #55** (a nearly 30% improvement over 2018) in *U.S. News & World Report*
- USJ is **#1 in CT and #13 in the nation** for exceeding salary expectations of graduates according to *Economist Magazine*
- USJ was named in the **Top 10 Best Colleges** in *Money Magazine's* "Colleges that Add the Most Value" List

We regularly hear from alumni who credit USJ as an essential factor in their success, but **only 10% of alumni support** their alma mater. Imagine what could be accomplished today if everyone gave something. Will you support Saint Joe's?

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Office of Institutional Advancement
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

CALL 860.231.5364 or

EMAIL giving@usj.edu

The University of Saint Joseph is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Chapel Bells Mass will be held on **Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, beginning at 4 p.m.** If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact Amanda Sherman, Stewardship Coordinator, at **860.231.5462** or asherman@usj.edu.



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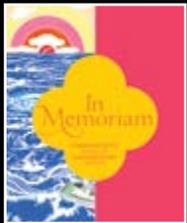
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ART MUSEUM UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH EXHIBITIONS

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 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. | Sunday: 1 - 4 p.m. | **Admission: FREE**



«*In Memoriam:*
Commemorative Works by Contemporary Artists
Features art memorializing events of political or social significance, honoring family members, or paying tribute to cultural heroes or mentors.
Through Dec. 16



«*“The Tongue is an Eye”:*
Poetry, the Visual Arts, and Wallace Stevens.
Connecticut poets mine the collection of the Art Museum for works that capture the spirit of specific poems by Wallace Stevens.
Jan. 11 - March 19



«*James Daugherty:*
Fairfield Court Murals and the Portrayal of Family
An examination of the way family life is depicted in studies for a lost WPA era mural cycle.
March 29 - June 9

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
WWW.USJ.EDU/ARTS



Annual MLK Celebration

Monday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
Celebrate and honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an inspiring keynote speaker, gospel harmonies from the Como Mamas, and performances by members of the USJ community.

The Como Mamas

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
Enjoy a soulful and powerful performance from this trio, who will be joined by inspirational opening gospel acts from the Hartford area.

Afro-Cuban All Stars

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
Witness a rare Connecticut performance from this Grammy-award winning group, who perform music from the rich and soulful golden era of pre-revolutionary Cuba.



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

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