

# OUTLOOK Magazine



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

Fall  
2019



## Improve Oral Health In School

Milton, Tiffany Ratajczak & Ashley Steele

Supervisor: Lucinda Canty, MSN, CNM

### Nursing Diagnosis

in related to lack of knowledge regarding

### Sustainability

This project will be sustainable due to the ease of implementation. Purchasing the supplies for the project was relatively inexpensive and the education is of no cost and allows for the project to be implemented in other communities.

### Evaluation

Students were surveyed regarding their understanding of oral health. PowerPoint presentation was given to teacher alike and teaching and learning.

In the form of a PowerPoint and handouts, toothpaste, and dental floss. Understanding of education by students were able to participate in the presentation in the relation to the presentation.

To engage students in education, knowledge was given to the teacher and teaching.

Stature &  
Distinctiveness

# VISION & VALUES: THE CAMPAIGN FOR USJ

Throughout its 87-year history, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has adapted to the expanding needs of students and society, yet has always remained grounded in its Core Values, including academic excellence, compassionate service, and respect. As part of their outreach, the Founding Sisters engaged others – trustees, faculty, administrators, alumni, and friends – to join them in ensuring that this institution remained current and responsive, with an eye to the future. Together, the USJ community has seized important opportunities to nourish the University’s stature, strength, and stability, and USJ has earned a national reputation for delivering on its educational promise.

Over the last several years, many loyal graduates and friends, committed to our mission of service and responsibility, have stepped forward to help sustain the University of Saint Joseph’s quality and accessibility with their financial support. With their contributions, the University makes its mark today as it always has: by educating compassionate citizens who improve the quality of life in their communities.

As the University embarks on a new chapter in its development – extending coeducation into the undergraduate program, growing enrollment, and creating a vibrant residential community – we are reaching out to the graduates, families, and friends whose support is critical to our continued success. June 30, 2020 will mark the conclusion of Vision & Values: The Campaign for USJ. With less than one year and \$1 million to go, we invite all members of our community to be a part of our success.

Funds raised for Vision & Values are aligned to support the Strategic Plan 2020:

- Increase the USJ Fund and grow alumni participation to support the University’s mission
- Build endowment to undergird the University’s long-term strength
- Underwrite the aspirations of students and faculty
- Address critical facilities needs

Your philanthropy can make the difference in this campaign but, more importantly, it will ensure that the University, its students, and its faculty are supported in their important work.

Asked what she would say to prospective donors to the campaign, Adela Shaqollari ’18 articulated the impact of our mission: “I’d tell them they’re not just supporting the school or current students; they’re supporting the future. USJ shapes people to be the best they can be in their careers and as human beings, and then they go on to jobs where they help others.”

All are invited to contribute to Vision & Values with a gift to the USJ Fund. For information about capital gifts, planned gifts, or to discuss how your philanthropy can best help USJ achieve its goals, please contact Maggie Pinney, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at **860.231.5397** or **mpinney@usj.edu**. 📧

vision & values

Develop. Grow. Build  
Join the Campaign for USJ.

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# PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



## Stature and Distinctiveness

This fall marks USJ's one-year anniversary of offering full-time coeducational undergraduate programs. I often get asked, "What's changed the most since going coed?" The biggest change we've seen is that so many women, who would not have applied to USJ if we were still a women's college, decided to apply and enroll. Even in our second year of being fully-coeducational, this fall we've had a year-over-year increase in the number of female applicants. We now have more students who want to seize every opportunity we have to offer them throughout their college journey with us. At USJ, what distinguishes us isn't one new sport or one new academic program; it's our nearly 90 years of consistently creating an educational experience that delivers value and values.

In this issue, we highlight our Strategic Plan's pillar of Stature and Distinctiveness. As you read through the magazine, you will see featured faculty and students reinforcing our Core Values and learn about how we are sustaining our distinctiveness in an ever-growing, competitive market by continuing to be innovative and agile in response to the changing needs of society.

If you missed the announcement last year about USJ's school restructuring to enhance the student experience and opportunities for faculty collaboration, we have included feature stories for you to read about the benefits of realigning programs into three schools: the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education; the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science; and the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies.

In addition to favorite sections, like Class Notes and Alumni Success stories, we've reintroduced the Art Museum page that showcases items from the collection and offers information about upcoming events. We also included a wonderful poem submitted by Dennis Barone, Ph.D., professor of English and American Studies at USJ.

After you're done reading the issue, if you haven't done so already, please register for Reunion. We'd love to see you on campus to visit with your classmates, make new friends, and enjoy the programs we have planned!

Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.  
President

## Living the Core Values Compassionate Service

Diana Sousa, MBA



Many of our alumni remember their Compassionate Service project(s) with great fondness and appreciation. Through these experiences, they learned about communities' needs, how to relate to and work in cooperation with people living in different circumstances, and the joy that comes from volunteerism.

Our current students work throughout the year with agencies in the Greater Hartford area and in annual visits to our longstanding Mercy health care partner in Guyana. During Mercy in the City Week, our alternative Spring Break program, several students spent their time off supporting the work of many local agencies, including:

- The United Way
- Hands on Hartford
- Foodshare
- Mercy Housing & Shelter, Inc., St. Elizabeth House
- The Catholic Worker House

In addition to the hands-on support, students spent time participating in a poverty simulation program led by The United Way, which helped students prepare for working with individuals in our community who are seeking support. Students were

grouped into different kinds of family units and provided with financials for that family, including monthly income and expenses. Great lessons and personal growth came out of the simulation, with students challenged to find a way to make ends meet and understand the facts about local homelessness and the financial, health care, and social needs many families face every day.

USJ graduate students are also active volunteers. The Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2020 created 43 blankets for the "Knots-for-Newborns" project to benefit the Rocking Chair Project – a non-profit organization that provides glider rocking chairs to help economically disadvantaged mothers nurture themselves and their babies during crucial early months. This program allows doctors to nominate a caregiver of a newborn to receive a new glider rocker to help promote bonding between caregiver and newborn. The knot blankets created by the students are then given to recipients of the chairs for their infants.

The Physician Assistant Studies students volunteered and participated at Fight for Air Climb, where participants walk, run, or race up hundreds of stairs to benefit the American Lung Association.

The funds raised support for research, education, and patient programs to help the millions of Americans affected by asthma, COPD, lung cancer, air pollution, and other lung diseases. An impressive \$1,095 was raised.

The University is very proud of our students' volunteerism in the last year. In addition to Mercy in the City Week, they:

- Participated in creating, supporting, and collaborating on 21 different community service projects throughout the year
- As part of Week of Welcome 2018:
  - 172 students volunteered for various service projects with nine community organizations in the Hartford area, resulting in over 500 hours served on that day.
- Actively joined in on the 175 Acts of Mercy Campaign:
  - USJ community members hosted 18 service projects benefitting 20 different community organizations;
  - 3,429 donations collected (food, clothing, personal care items, cards); and
  - Over \$19,000 donated. 🙏

We love to share stories about our alumni continuing to live the Core Values. Tell us yours by sending us an email to [alumni@usj.edu](mailto:alumni@usj.edu).



# Innovation and Commitment at the University of Saint Joseph

By Diana Sousa, MBA

**WHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH (USJ)** announced it would restructure its academic schools, faculty and students weren't sure how the changes would make a difference. Programs, which were previously divided into five schools, became integrated into three: the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education; the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science; and the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies.


Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., remarked, "Our goal was to improve the USJ academic experience for students and make inter-department collaboration among faculty easier. Along the way, we've also been able to be more efficient with expenses."

A committee worked for a year to realign academic departments and programs so that faculty and students could better engage in inter-professional education, service, and research. By grouping related fields and facilitating interactions between students in those departments – such as Nursing with Nutrition or Pharmacy with Physician Assistant Studies – the new structure offers students more opportunities to develop as future professionals and work together on teams as they will in the workforce.

With faculty changes there was also an opportunity to hire a new dean. While the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education and the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies would be led by Raouf Boules, Ph.D., and Joseph Ofosu, Pharm.D., R.Ph., respectively – both of whom served as deans already – the University welcomed Elizabeth Francis-Connolly, Ph.D., as the dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science. Francis-Connolly, who earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan, most recently served as a professor of Occupational Therapy at the University of New England (UNE). In addition, she has extensive administration experience, including as the dean of UNE's Westbrook College of Health Professions.

This 2018 restructuring continues the changes USJ has made in the last 10 years, starting in 2009 when then-Saint Joseph College switched from a division structure to a school structure, reinforcing its mission as a comprehensive institution with career-focused undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs. The College was divided into five schools: Education; Graduate and Professional Studies; Health and Natural Science; Humanities and Social Science; and Pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy, offering a doctorate in Pharmacy, expanded on USJ's strength in the health sciences. A second doctoral degree, Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), followed in 2013.

Within a few years, the innovation and growth continued, and the state approved Saint Joseph College's transition to the University of Saint Joseph. In 2014, the Center for Applied Research and Education – an extension of the Gengras Center – was groundbreaking from a building and programmatic perspective, with technology-enabled classrooms and enhanced Applied Behavior Analysis services to meet the needs of an increased number of students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related conditions. Staying competitive, the University also responded to the demand for Physician Assistants by creating a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program in 2017. The investment in this program has already achieved its goals by supplying qualified Physician Assistants to a wide range of health care facilities and maintaining USJ's outstanding reputation in health care. The initial class of students graduated in 2019, and 100% of them passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).

A year into this most recent school restructuring, students are already experiencing the advantages of having integrated programs and research opportunities with more to come as new academic programs are welcomed into each school, including: an online M.S. in Public Health; a B.A. in Digital Media and Communication; and an M.S. in Biomedical Sciences. 

## NEW FACULTY

# NEW FACULTY BRING EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE TO CLASS

Elizabeth Marone '15

*Join us in welcoming new professors for the start of the 2019-20 academic school year.*

"At the University of Saint Joseph, we take pride in the expert faculty who prepare our students for successful futures," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. "We are excited to welcome these new faculty members and we look forward to watching our students thrive under their careful guidance throughout their degree programs at USJ."

**Joshua Anderson, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education in the department of English.

**Susan Budris, M.S.**, visiting assistant professor, joins the School of Arts, Science, Business, and Education in the department of Early Childhood and Special Education.

**Ozlem Dilek, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education in the department of Chemistry.

**Sheila Garilli, MSN, RN**, instructor of Nursing, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science in the department of Nursing.

**Issac Gottesman, Ph.D.**, associate professor, joined the School of Arts, Sciences, Business & Education as chair of the department of Education.

**Rammi Hazzaa, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education in the department of Business Administration.

**Ryan Kimball, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science in the department of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies.

**Chelsea A. May, PA-C**, assistant professor, joins the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies.

**Lauren Micalizzi, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science in the department of Psychology.

**Karen M. Myrick, DNP**, associate professor, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science in the department of Nursing.


**Kaydian Reid, DrPH**, assistant professor, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science as Program Director for the master's degree in Public Health.

**Tiffany Tsai, Pharm.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies in the department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration.

**Elisa Valenzuela, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, joins the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science in the department of Business Administration.

**Jennifer S. Violette, MSPA**, assistant professor, joined the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies in the department of Physician Assistant Studies.

**Jeffrey White, Ph.D.**, visiting assistant professor, joined the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science as the director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program.

For more information about USJ and its expert faculty, visit [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu). 



# Collaboration is Key

*for the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education*

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Since its inception a year ago, the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education (SASBE) has demonstrated a strong commitment to collaboration through faculty, staff, and student efforts.

A recent partnership between the department of Chemistry and the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) provided a more comprehensive experience for students enrolled in the University's Chemistry 170 course. Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jesse Crandall, Ph.D., created a Workshop Manual that corresponds to both the course syllabus and weekly structured workshops, which are facilitated by experienced CAE content tutors who regularly meet with him. By offering students resources that specifically correspond to course content, the collaboration between the two departments has improved student retention in an introductory class with a challenging yet rewarding curriculum.

With such positive results, participating faculty, staff, and students presented at Middlesex Community College's annual Northeast Regional SI Conference (NERSI) in March. Together, the Chemistry department's Chair, Ellen Anderson, Ph.D., and Dr. Crandall; as well as the CAE's Director of Support Services of Health and Natural Sciences, Diane Zelazny, RN;

Professional Content Tutor Tessa Tuttle, RN; and Undergraduate Content Tutor Symantha Fazzino '21 offered attendees insight into the process of creating these opportunities at their institutions.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the CAE staff and student tutors to create workshops and enhance the study table and tutoring services for CHEM 170," said Dr. Crandall. "The energy and enthusiasm that the tutors have is noticed by the students and makes my job as the professor much more rewarding. I can be better in the classroom because of the support that my students get from the CAE, and I look forward to continuing the collaboration."



In addition to partnerships within the University, SASBE has collaborated with external institutions to provide meaningful experiences for its students as well. In the department of Education, Jennifer Kowitt, Ph.D., assistant professor of Special Education, led a capstone course that centered on a growing relationship between USJ and the Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford.

The partnership, which was made possible by Dr. Kowitt's colleague Lauren Tucker, Ed.D., assistant professor of Education, provided a unique learning opportunity for the Special Education course's four seniors. The course allowed them to apply what they had learned at USJ in order to support a community organization's accessibility goals while, at the same time, developing their own interests in the field of special education.

The students were invited to observe two of the Bushnell's sensory friendly performances, which are designed with the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in mind. They also worked with Bushnell staff to create and distribute a follow-up survey to the audience. Based on their observations and the results of the survey, the class pinpointed strengths of the performances and areas for growth, which they then shared with the Bushnell.

"The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, in its goal to increase programming and awareness of its sensory-friendly programs, is thrilled to partner with the students and faculty of the University of Saint Joseph. It is extremely beneficial for the Bushnell to receive feedback from students who have had classroom experience working with people on the spectrum, and they have provided guidance and suggestions that we will use moving forward. We look forward to continuing this unique partnership," said Brenda Lopez, director of School-Based Services and Talent Development at the Bushnell.


Dr. Kowitt hopes to continue the partnership as well, recognizing the many ways it



can enhance students' learning experiences on and off campus. "My students learned about how special education – and education, more broadly – can take place outside the classroom, and that it's really important that we engage community partners in the work of educating students with disabilities," she remarked.

USJ's commitment to students' experiential learning opportunities was also at the forefront when the University hired the new Chair of the department of Education, Isaac Gottesman, Ph.D., and the new Director of Clinical Education, Dianna Wentzell, Ed.D., Connecticut's former Commissioner of Education.

"Our teachers are our heroes," Dr. Wentzell said. "This University is a leader in teacher preparation because of how it integrates real classroom clinical practice throughout the Education and teacher licensure programs. New thinking is being applied to the preparation and placement of classroom teachers, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Whether through local partnerships or study abroad opportunities with peer institutions across the globe, students learn the power of collaboration first-hand during their time at USJ. These experiences, along with the classroom instruction provided by USJ's expert faculty across disciplines, ensure that students are prepared to enter their careers with the tools necessary to excel in their fields and society. 



# The School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

By Elizabeth Marone '15.

In its first year, the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science (IHS) has facilitated a collaboration among its departments and enhanced existing programs to live out one of the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Core Values, Compassionate Service.

This was seen most prominently in an interdisciplinary project initiated by the Dean of the School, Elizabeth Francis-Connolly, Ph.D. Upon her arrival at USJ in fall 2018, Dean Francis-Connolly worked with professors to establish ways in which the departments could support community programs while demonstrating for students a collaborative effort by professionals from a variety of fields.

Patrick Nickoletti, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), who has experience with community agencies and programs, has played an integral role in this project.

“Dean Francis-Connolly approached me to identify potential new or existing programs to involve our faculty and students,” said Dr. Nickoletti. “Among the opportunities I identified was Jumoke Academy, a K-4 elementary school program with promising children and a committed staff seeking to enhance all aspects of their students’ lives. They had previous positive experiences with USJ and were very interested in resuming contact.”

This partnership has become a true collaborative effort, with participation from professors across disciplines – from Nursing and Nutrition to Social Work. Kathleen Barrett, Ed.D., associate professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies, is conducting Second Step, a social-emotional development curriculum, with the students, while Dr. Nickoletti supervises USJ Child Studies students from HDFS, who assist teachers in Jumoke classrooms.

The first year of this project has left USJ students – like recent Social Work graduate Shelby Mehmet '19 – reaffirmed in their professional goals.



“The focus for my career is children and adolescents, and this was an amazing opportunity to meet and work with the wonderful students involved. I also learned from my colleagues from different backgrounds and disciplines, who not only have so much to offer the children but also contribute to my growth as a future social worker,” Mehmet said.

IHS also instills a dedication to compassionate service in its Nursing students through clinical rotations in a variety of health care settings throughout their time at USJ, concluding with placements in public health and community sites during their senior year. From Hands on Hartford programs to the Malta House of Care’s Mobile Medical Clinic, USJ’s future nurses gain meaningful experience in the field while serving individuals in need within the community.

“Students find a different set of skills in these environments,” said Janet Knecht, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the department of Nursing. “In the acute care facilities, there’s a focus on the acute technologic empirical nursing but, in the community, they have the opportunity to build their communication and interviewing

skills. It’s an opportunity for them to see patients where they live and how they live.”

Additionally, IHS faculty and students educate fellow professionals who serve the community. At the 34th annual conference held by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Assistant Professor of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice Mariann Mankowski, MSW, Ph.D., and graduate Social Work students – Marisa Desjardins, Michelle Castro, Areadner Cruz, and Taylor Andrews – presented their findings on issues facing the veteran population.

“It’s valuable information for social workers who wouldn’t otherwise have access to this information,” said Mankowski. “Students presented in front of agency directors, social workers who have been in the field for 20 years, and potential employers. This is the one time that social workers throughout the state come together for continuing education opportunities. For our MSW students to provide a depth of knowledge to community-based social workers is really important – particularly for me, whose area is veterans. It’s an area that is, oftentimes, overlooked.”



From Social Work and Nursing to Psychology and Counseling, the departments within the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science continue the Mercy commitment to compassionate service. By educating students about the information they need to make a difference, while also providing the real-life experiences that help them develop their skills, the School – and USJ at large – ensures that students are prepared to be effective professionals in their fields. 🏡



# The School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies Celebrates Success

By Diana Sousa, MBA

This was a milestone year for our School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies. As the Pharm.D. program celebrated its sixth class of Pharmacists and our Physician Assistant Studies program graduated its first class of Physician Assistants, we reflect on the success of our students, faculty, and staff.

When the Doctor of Pharmacy program hosted its dedication of the Hartford location, invited dignitaries noted how the central location was convenient for students, faculty, and staff as well as the community that would benefit from more activity in downtown Hartford.

According to the Dean of the School, Joseph Ofosu, Pharm.D., R.Ph., “We are training competent and caring pharmacists who are devoted to service, scholarly work, and best professional practices,” Ofosu said at the time.

A distinguishing and integral experience for USJ students is having a preceptor to work alongside of during the course of their program. We honor their contributions at the annual ‘Preceptor of the Year Continuing Education Event and Awards Program.’ It provides USJ the opportunity to personally thank the many preceptors who take the time to give back to the profession and educate the next generation of pharmacists.

Preceptors mentor and encourage students to reach their full potential. “I am grateful for the opportunity to be a preceptor. I am thankful for the recognition for the work we put in and know that each and every preceptor is truly deserving. I consider it an honor to walk into my hospital and have the chance to

help students develop clinical judgment and shape the way they practice Pharmacy,” said Jon Blazawski, Pharm.D., Institutional Practice Preceptor of the Year.

Kristen Masood-Sidebottom, a Community Practice Preceptor of the Year, currently a pharmacist for CVS Health, was a member of the inaugural class of 2014. She is well respected, outgoing, and praised for her positive relationships with co-workers, customers, medical professionals, pharmaceutical representatives, and insurance providers.

“I love teaching students and was always so amazed during my rotations how much my preceptors knew and were able to teach me and I’m glad I can return the favor. I also like being able to tell my students I went to USJ and know what they are going through!” said Masood-Sidebottom, Pharm.D.

While the role of pharmacists in a variety of clinical and corporate settings has evolved since the first class walked through the doors in 2011, USJ’s success continues to rely on our distinctive and innovative modified-block curriculum format that enables the mastery of subject matter, while also providing experiential education.



One example of the kind of real-world experience our students receive is led by Alaina Rotelli, Pharm.D., BCACP, in an innovative partnership with Middlesex Hospital in Connecticut that began in 2011 to provide for the clinical training of student pharmacists with USJ faculty at the hospital. Today, the partnership also includes comprehensive medication management of hospital patients in an outpatient setting, who have chronic conditions and may be taking multiple medications. Middlesex Hospital is also the host site for our Post-Graduate Pharmacy Practice (PGY-1) Residency.

Once the notice of accreditation for our Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program was received in October 2016, the University announced it would welcome its first cohort of students in January 2017. This new PA Program was developed as a 28-month program focusing on collaborative approaches to patient-centered care that enhances treatment plans and can improve health outcomes. This new program continued USJ’s nearly 90-year tradition of providing quality, relevant education programs for students aligned to the economy. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physician assistants is projected to grow 30 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.

When the Physician Assistant History Society featured USJ’s program in 2019, we shared information about our program and faculty relationship with students. The PA Program’s distinctive modular curriculum allows students to focus on learning one organ system at a time; enhancing their ability to fully integrate basic science and medical concepts related to that system through classroom and practical applied teaching methods. The faculty of PAs and physicians provide a low faculty-to-student ratio and work closely with students to provide them with relevant, real-world knowledge in renovated, dedicated classroom and laboratory environments.

USJ’s PA students are active in the community in keeping with our Core Values and goals of the




program, students have volunteered with a range of organizations including the Miracle League of CT, Alex’s Lemonade Stand, Knots for Newborns, Foodshare, Relay for Life, and Light the Night.

During the spring of 2019, the program welcomed its third cohort of students who are quickly integrating into the rigorous academics and university life. The first graduating class set the bar high for current students, when 100% of the first graduating class passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE). Small class sizes and an environment of collegiality will allow current PA students to benefit from the networking and mentoring opportunities that alumni will provide.

Carrie Walker, MPAS, MS, PA-C, Founding Chair and Program Director for the Physician Assistant Program is proud of how the program has evolved in the last three years and excited about continued success in the future. She remarked, “Our students are very committed to the goals of the program and becoming valuable members of a patient-centered health care team that enhances treatment plans and improves patient health outcomes. We are proud of the success we’ve had and are making improvements to remain ahead of professional trends and market needs.”

With the merging of the Physician Assistant Studies Program and the Pharm.D. program into one school, the students – all learning through a modular curriculum system – are benefitting from opportunities to work closely together, similar to how they will collaborate in professional settings after graduation. According to Dean Ofosu, “We are already realizing the benefits of faculty collaboration on curriculum and students working together on research projects and during clinical placements.”

With a proud legacy and strategic plans in place for the future, USJ’s Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies programs will continue to be a vital part of the University’s integrated healthcare and science offerings. 



# Faculty-Student Researchers Grateful for Alumni Donations

By Madeline Kravitz '20 and Irene Reed, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology

### What is Endometrial cancer (EC) and why is it an important disease to research?

Endometrial cancer (EC) is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in women, and is caused by the abnormal overgrowth of the cells that line the uterus (also known as epithelial cells).

### Is there more than one type of this cancer and if so, what are the differences?

Currently, endometrial cancer is classified as either Type I or Type II based on the expression of a protein called the estrogen receptor (ERα). Type I endometrial cancer expresses ERα and therefore depends on estrogen to grow, while Type II endometrial cancer lacks ERα. Therefore, it is believed that estrogen does not help Type II endometrial cancer cells grow. While Type II is thought to be estrogen-independent.

### Your research showed that estrogen activates signaling pathways in both Type I and Type II endometrial cancer how does that help doctors and patients?

Since estrogen can turn on genes in both types of endometrial cancer, resulting in growth of the tumor cells and changes in their behavior, and we know that Type II endometrial cancer does not have ER, this suggests that an alternative estrogen receptor, such as GPR30, may be controlling estrogen signaling.

Estrogen signaling can activate a series of molecules known as the PI3K/Akt pathway, resulting in genetic changes to the tumor cells. One result of these genetic changes is a process called epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT). During EMT, cells undergo changes that cause them to become

more mobile and invasive, which is why EMT is thought to cause metastasis.

Metastasis is what doctors look for to see if cancer cells leave the original site of the tumor and travel to other areas in the body. Unfortunately, over 90% of cancer related deaths are due to metastasis, which is why it is so important to study this process.

“Obtaining funding from donors, grants, and foundations is crucial for continuing this important work. More and more students are interested in research, and we have relevant, exciting, and translatable projects going on at USJ. Our goal is to support as many students as we can.

### What interested you about this research project?

We are particularly interested in how estrogen signaling through GPR30 may cause changes at the genetic level that facilitate EMT and subsequently, metastasis of the cancer. To test this, endometrial cancer cells are grown in the lab, treated with various growth factors or hormones (such as estrogen), and changes in the expression of genes and proteins are measured.

We are also examining if EMT could act as a transitional mechanism between Type I and Type II endometrial cancer. If so, it

opens the possibility of preventing cancer from becoming aggressive by keeping it contained and consequently more treatable in patients. Our research could not only change the way endometrial cancer is classified, but may also aid in the development of better treatments for patients with this cancer.

### Can you offer OUTLOOK readers a visual of an experiment from your research?

Type I endometrial cancer cells were treated with a chemical that induces EMT (TGF-β) for 48 hours. The technique of immunofluorescence places a fluorescent tag on a specific protein so that it can be visualized in the cells. In this experiment, GPR30 expression was increased (indicated by the presence of red fluorescence), and the cells showed a drastic change in their shape. This spindle like shape is characteristic of mesenchymal cells, which are more invasive and have an increased risk of metastasizing.

### What are the next steps?

As is true for scientific research in general, this is just one piece of a larger puzzle. This project has been ongoing for several years and has involved other USJ students who have since graduated and gone onto Ph.D. and physician assistant programs. Maddie will continue to work on this project for the next academic year, and though she has presented her work at several conferences and hopes to publish a manuscript, this project will continue. This study could be expanded to look at additional relevant genes involved in endometrial cancer progression, or even other types of cancers. Reed said, “Obtaining funding from donors, grants, and foundations is crucial for continuing this important work. More and more students are interested in research, and we have relevant, exciting, and translatable projects going on at USJ. Our goal is to support as many students as we can.”

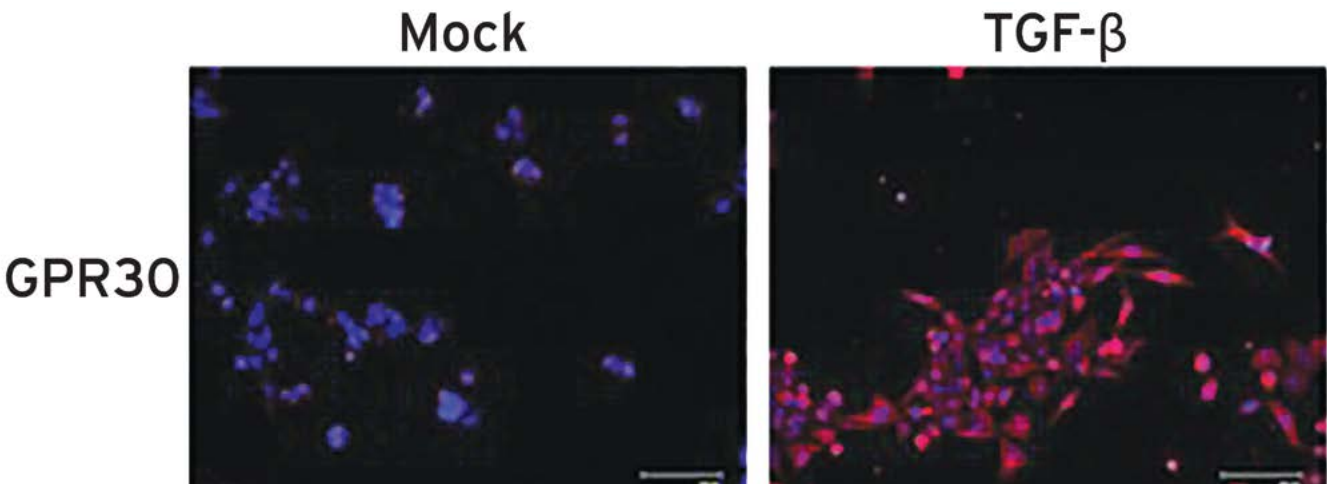


Figure: The EMT-inducer TGF-β activates GPR30 in Type I EC.



# Matthew Dicks



## What advice do you give to prospective teachers?

When planning your lessons, assume that no one in your class wants to learn.

It's easy to teach children who want to learn. It's not hard to teach the child who works hard all day long. It's the kids who don't love school – the kids who don't see value in learning – who we must keep in mind at all times when planning and teaching our students. It's a teacher's primary responsibility to ensure that children – regardless of their age – love school. This means that you must make school engaging and fun for kids. This could be as simple as allowing your students to choose their partner for a given lesson. Or handing your students a worksheet with 50 problems and telling them to only solve three. Or ensuring that your lessons affords students the ability to get up and move. But it might also mean spending the day pretending to drink water from a thumbnail sized tea cup stolen from

your daughter's Barbie doll or taking your lesson outdoors or rewarding excellent effort with an indoor snowball fight.

Make learning fun. When kids love to come to school and enjoy learning, most of your problems will fade away.

Design lessons that are exciting, surprising, hilarious, shocking, kinetic, original, and anything else you can think of to make the school day unforgettable.

## Which person or people in your life helped mentor or shape the way you teach?

Plato Karafelis, my principal for my first 14 years in the classroom, had the greatest influence on my teaching career. Plato believed that teachers should bring their passions into the classroom, even when those passions did not align in any way to the curriculum.

Want to make your classroom an exciting and fun place for students? Introduce the things that you find fun and exciting into your students' lives.

It was Plato who encouraged me to produce and direct a Shakespearean production during my first year of teaching with my second graders. After reading them a novelization of Julius Caesar, the kids asked to perform the play.

Second graders? I thought this was a terrible idea.

Plato did not.

Four months later, my students performed brilliantly in front of an audience of family and friends. Dressed in togas sewn from old bedsheets and carrying plastic swords, they did Shakespeare and their parents proud.

For the past 21 years, my students in second, third, and now fifth grade have studied and performed Shakespeare's plays. In that time, I've also turned my classroom into a theater, complete with stage, curtains, lighting, and sound. My classes study several Shakespearean plays over the course of the year and eventually perform one in June.

Back in 2009, my class performed Julius Caesar again, and this time, six of the students who were in that original second grade class – then seniors in high school – surprised me by attending the performance. They sat together in the front row and gave my students a standing ovation.

None of this happens if my principal does not encourage me to bring my passion for Shakespeare and theater into the classroom. It doesn't happen if Plato doesn't trust me enough to get my job done while also getting my students excited about the drama, intrigue, and suspense of Shakespeare. None of this happens if Plato doesn't allow me the freedom to pursue my passion and pass those interests onto my students.

## What are 2-3 techniques you use to stay calm when life at work or home get overwhelming?

The best tool to avoid becoming overwhelmed is perspective. Most problems in our lives pale in comparison to our greatest challenges, but in the heat of the moment, this can sometimes be forgotten.

Whenever I'm on the precipice of feeling overwhelmed, I remind myself that there was a time in my life when I was arrested, jailed, and tried for a crime I did not commit. For a period of my life, I was homeless, and when I was rescued from the street, I shared a small room with a stranger and an indoor pet goat. When I finally made it to college, I attended Trinity College and St. Joseph's simultaneously, earning an English degree and teaching certificate while also managing a McDonald's restaurant fulltime and working part time in the Trinity College writing center in order to make ends meet.

It's going to take a lot to make me feel overwhelmed by comparison. Perspective. Even if your past is less colorful than mine, most people have challenges far greater than the ones they face every day. Keep those in mind.

One other strategy that I use is to remember the limited temporal nature of problems. Last June, an important cast member did not arrive to school in time for our final and more important performance of Hamlet. My students were in a panic, so I gathered them together and said, "Listen, in a little more than an hour, none of this will matter anymore. We'll be eating ice cream and laughing. So let's pretend that it's already ice cream time and relax."

## You have a new book coming out, *Twenty-one Truths about Love*, what was the impetus for this book at this time in your life and career?

The book was partly written because as an author, I have assigned myself a lifelong homework assignment. There's always the next book to write, so in many ways, *Twenty-one Truths About Love* is just the next book on the list.

**MATTHEW DICKS** received his teaching licensure from the University of Saint Joseph. He is the internationally bestselling author of the novels *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, *Something Missing*, *Unexpectedly*, *Milo*, *The Perfect Comeback of Caroline Jacobs*, *Storyworthy: Engage, Teach, Persuade, and Change Your Life through the Power of Storytelling*, and the upcoming *Twenty-one Truths About Love*, *The Other Mother* and *Cardboard Knight*. He is the humor columnist for *Seasons* magazine and a columnist for *Slate* magazine. He has also published for *Reader's Digest*, *The Hartford Courant*, *Parents* magazine, *The Huffington Post*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. Matthew fills his days as an elementary school teacher, a storyteller, a speaking coach, a blogger, a wedding DJ, a minister, a life coach, and a Lord of Sealand. He has been teaching for 21 years and is a former West Hartford Teacher of the Year and a finalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Matthew is a 42-time Moth StorySLAM champion and 6-time GrandSLAM champion whose stories have been featured on their nationally syndicated Moth Radio Hour and their weekly podcast. One of his stories has also appeared on PBS's *Stories From the Stage*. Matthew is also the founder and artistic director of *Speak Up*, a Hartford-based storytelling organization that produces shows throughout New England. He teaches storytelling and public speaking to individuals, corporations, universities, religious institutions, and school districts around the world. For more information about Matthew and his work, please visit [www.matthewdicks.com](http://www.matthewdicks.com)

But it also wasn't. My next book was supposed to be *The Other Mother*, a book currently published in the UK and Australia. I started writing *Twenty-one Truths About Love* as a joke. I was suffering through a stretch of painful meetings and professional development seminars, so when the content seemed decidedly disassociated with my needs, I started writing funny lists to amuse my tablemates. At first these lists focused on educational issues but they quickly drifted into other realms. Eventually I realized that the writer of these lists wasn't exactly me but a fictionalized version of me.

I told my agent about these lists, and she thought that writing a novel based entirely on lists was a great idea. So did I.

Sadly, my editor did not, so I tabled the idea and moved onto my next idea. But I continued to add to the lists whenever

I had a chance, and slowly it began to develop into a book.

A year later, my editor moved on and I was assigned someone new. She had heard about my "stupid" list book. She said, "I'm not going to buy it, but I'm curious. Can you share it with me?" At that point I had about half the book written, so I sent it along.

Three days later my editor called. "We want the book. We want to publish it next. How quickly can you finish it?"

It took about six months to complete the book, but that is how I have one book published in the UK and a different book publishing soon in the US. My United States editor flip flopped the order, making for a busy year.

But I can't complain. I could still be sharing a room with a goat. 🐐



# LEADING WITH MERCY

## A PROFILE OF PRESIDENT RHONA FREE

(Reprint from *Today's American Catholic*, April 2019)

By Jane M. Bailey



I pulled into a University of Saint Joseph (USJ) parking spot reserved for the office of the president and took a deep breath. I was on a mission to discover the common values that USJ president Rhona Free and head basketball coach Jim Calhoun said they shared during a recent television interview on the station WFSB.

Even more than wanting to know the values of President Free, I wanted to learn about the values of the university and how they are transmitted to students. I clicked my car lock and headed past a sign for Mercy Hall. Entering the building, I hurried down the hallway to the president's office, feeling piercing eyes from the portraits of former presidents.

One of the portraits is of Mary Rosa McDonough, RSM, Ph.D., the founding sister who led the school from its inception in 1932 until 1950. It was Sister Rosa who spearheaded the development of the school itself—the buildings, the resources, the academic programs, and the culture of excellence. Dressed in the traditional nun's habit, Sister Rosa looked regal as she stared down at me; strong and serious—a nun you wouldn't want to cross. Under her guidance, a values-centered curriculum combining liberal arts and professional preparation became the curricular cornerstone of USJ.

I passed the paintings and headed through the gleaming glass door with the embedded USJ presidential

seal. As the door closed behind me, I felt the quiet order of serenity. Nicest of all was the warmth of the greeting I received from President Free.

Settling into our chairs, I asked about the values of the Sisters of Mercy, since those are the foundation of USJ. She explained that helping the poor through education was the original Sisters of Mercy mission and that USJ takes that value very seriously. They actively recruit students who are first-generation college-bound and have limited means of income. About half of USJ students meet those criteria.

Sisters of Mercy today espouse a wider array of values, including spirituality, community, service, and social justice. They have identified five critical concerns (earth, immigration, nonviolence, racism, and women) that guide their social justice efforts. These values are evident in the USJ mission “to provide liberal arts and professional education for a diverse student population in an inclusive environment that encourages strong ethical values, personal integrity, and a sense of responsibility to the needs of society.”

Today there are three Sisters of Mercy on the USJ faculty, and six more on the board of trustees who help to guide this Mercy institution. A brochure for prospective students has a striking headline: A University with Values & Value. If faculty and students put their Mercy values into action, then USJ has well earned its 2017–18 award from Money magazine

as one of the “Top 10 Best Colleges That Add the Most Value.”

Dr. Free is the ninth president of USJ, and the first non-Catholic president in the school's history. She came to USJ from secular higher education, having spent 25 years teaching and then serving as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Eastern Connecticut State University.

I wondered how that secular background meshes with leading a Catholic institution. Dr. Free said that she knew early in the interview process that Mercy values resonated powerfully with her. Having done her graduate work at the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Free understands the Catholic intellectual tradition of service, ethical development, and social responsibility. At Notre Dame, she studied political economy and delved deeply into issues of economic disparity.

When she was named USJ president in 2015, the chair of the search committee said, “Dr. Free's strong background as a teacher and administrator, coupled with her commitment to the Mercy values and faith-based education, make her the perfect fit for the University of Saint Joseph.”

Students have multiple opportunities to engage with the values that Dr. Free upholds. One of the tenants of the new core curriculum is “Understanding Mercy,” which includes the Mercy Integrative

Capstone Seminar that requires students to engage in the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. Additionally, all students must take a course in values and ethics. Community engagement experiences are threaded throughout a student's program of study.

The beautiful Connor Chapel of Our Lady supports students of all faiths. Both the Catholic chaplain and the director of campus ministry provide interdenominational opportunities for students to explore their spirituality.

Radiating across campus is a “Mercy Path” of banners proclaiming each of the core values of USJ: Catholic identity, development of the whole person, compassionate service, academic excellence, respect/integrity, hospitality, and multiculturalism/diversity.

It is President Free's duty to uphold the Catholic intellectual tradition. I have heard criticism that Catholic education, or any faith-based school, focuses on faith at the expense of intellectual exploration of diverse views. I asked Dr. Free about an online student action petition to prevent Father James Martin, SJ, from delivering USJ's 2018 Buckley Lecture. The petition's 14,433 supporters argue that Father Martin is pro-homosexuality, and that his liberal views on the LGBT community are against Catholic values.

President Free didn't blink. She told me that she consulted with the Sisters of Mercy, considered the arguments for and against having Father Martin speak, and made the decision—and it was her decision—to go forward with the lecture. “Being a university of ideas doesn't mean you give up your values,” she

said calmly. It was clear to me that she is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, and that includes the value of diverse voices.

This past year, President Free oversaw the transition of USJ from an all-women's college to a coeducational university. Dr. Free realized that a major athletic development would help recruit new male students. At the same time, Hall of Fame UCONN basketball coach Jim Calhoun was ready to come out of retirement. He said he missed making a difference in the lives of his athletes by guiding and mentoring them. When asked in the WFSB interview why he came to USJ to build a Division III program

Having done her graduate work at the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Free understands the Catholic intellectual tradition of service, ethical development, and social responsibility

after having coached Division I University of Connecticut, he cited the values that he shares with Dr. Free—the Mercy values.

Coach Calhoun's philanthropy is as legendary as his coaching. The Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center at UCONN Health is one of his many gifts to society. From his generosity to his love of students and belief in education as a means to upward mobility, Coach Calhoun is well aligned to Mercy values.

While Rhona Free is calm and steady as she keeps USJ on a Mercy course, Coach Calhoun is intense and hard driving; just watch a video of him coaching. Yet whether it is President Free or Coach Calhoun, they each model their values and give students opportunities to put values into action. Dr. Free quoted her grandmother's adage: “An ounce of performance is worth a pound of preaching.”

When asked about her hope for USJ, President Free responded, “That we continue to graduate students who will serve the needs of society.” Dr. Free's hope comes full circle back to Mercy values. I wondered how Dr. Free can be sure that USJ students walk out the door with Mercy values in hand and heart. How is that measured?

Dr. Free looked at me and smiled. “Measuring values is a challenge we've been grappling with. It's like measuring critical thinking . . . hard to capture. What is measurable are the opportunities we provide for students to explore Mercy values.” President Free is confident that USJ comes out strong with regard to these opportunities.

I left our interview with a sense of peace, having spent time with someone who knows what she's about: values-based education. Coming out the glass door, I once again passed the portraits of previous presidents. I said a silent prayer to Sister Rosa, reassuring her that Mercy values are in good hands.

While Sister Rosa might not recognize the 90-acre campus, the upgraded status from college to university, or the change from all women to coeducation, she would know that Mercy values are alive and well at the University of Saint Joseph—from the halls of leadership to the basketball court. Best of all, they are alive in the careers of USJ graduates who carry Mercy values into the world . . . and on to the future.

**Jane M. Bailey** is a freelance writer who lives in Litchfield, Connecticut. She is a retired university provost who enjoys writing about matters of the heart. Read more at [www.janembaily.com](http://www.janembaily.com).



# Showcasing a Collection from The Art Museum at the University of Saint Joseph

I am delighted to write this first article for a new feature in *Outlook* that will focus attention on works in the Art Museum's permanent collection. It seemed appropriate to begin this new column with a look at recent acquisitions that signal a new collecting focus.

Among the Museum's most popular exhibitions have been the photography shows we have organized in-house or booked through traveling exhibition services. They have brought us opportunities to showcase work by internationally-famous photographers, including historic figures (Ilse Bing, Lewis Hine) and contemporary masters (Paul Caponigro, Ellen Carey, Liu Bolin). In the absence of a photography collection, loan shows have enabled us to incorporate this important medium into our educational offerings for students, faculty and the public. At the same time, these exhibitions have signaled our serious interest in collecting photographic art and have begun to attract donations to the Museum.

Recent gifts include nineteenth-century photos recording aspects of Hopi life as well as stereograph views of the American West by Timothy O'Sullivan and Carleton Watkins. These landscapes, which will be included in a Recent Acquisitions installation this winter, are significant precursors to Ansel Adams's famous views, the subject of an upcoming exhibition

at the Art Museum in spring 2021. The exhibition Moko – Maori Tattoo: Photographs by Hans Neleman (January 17 – March 15, 2020) will present gifts from the photographer. These large-format portraits depict contemporary Maori men and women whose facial or body tattoos express individual, family, and tribal identity. The traditional art of Maori tattooing, once suppressed under colonial rule, has undergone a resurgence as New Zealand's Maori reassert their cultural traditions. Another recent acquisition of significance is a group of atmospheric views by Indian photographer Kekoo Rastomjee.

We kick off this fall with a major exhibition loaned through Bank of America's Art in our Communities program. Shared Space: A New Era | Photographs from the Bank of America Collection (September 3 - December 15, 2019) presents eighteen artists from the United States, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, and Switzerland who explore how the physical spaces in which we interact have evolved alongside our access to a virtual "global village."

Programming in connection with this exhibition includes our 5th Museum members' Purchase Party on November 14, which will feature a pre-selected group of photographs, any one of which would be a significant addition to the Museum's permanent collection. Members



Hans Neleman (born 1960). *Parangi Hillman* (Iwi: *NgaItuho*), "This ta moko represents my Maori identity and my Christian faith," 1999. Digital print, satin finish K-3 on aluminum, 24 x 20 in. Gift of Hans Neleman, 2017.



Adam Clark Vroman (1856-1916). *Hopi Woman Grinding Corn*, c. 1897 (printed later). Gelatin silver print, 15 1/2 x 19 1/2 in. Gift of Lewis Shepard and Ellen Berezin, 2019.

cast a secret ballot for their first choice and the winner is purchased with money set aside from a portion of Friends of the Art Museum membership dues. USJ students are members free of charge with current ID and we accept all new memberships and renewals right up until the voting starts. Anyone may attend the party, but only members can vote! Like previous Purchase Parties, which related thematically to special exhibitions that addressed areas of desired growth in our collection, this year's event will build on our members' increasing familiarity with major photographers and enthusiasm for expanding our photography collection.

I look forward to sharing these new acquisitions with you!

Ann H. Sievers  
Director and Curator, Art Museum

## NEW FACULTY

# FRAME NARRATIVE

Elizabeth Marone '15

*Some desire to own things and sometimes these desired  
Objects are artworks: landscapes or still lifes. I have  
Often looked in Litchfield for a depiction of two peaches*

*Or one lily. But I have settled for a meal at The Village  
Before returning home to West Hartford. If the blue  
Of the iris matches the blue of Aelbert Cuyp than*

*What of the white: what memory does it evoke or  
Is it the absence of one? Begin in the center  
Where a black band encircles a black and gold vase.*

*The vase itself appears disembodied, if not a bit distraught  
Against a gold of a different tone, mottled some  
By a darkness of varying degree. Those green leaves*

*Tipped by red recall the blossoms' youth. So this  
Is a life: arranged, watered perhaps, articulated  
By a skillful hand, and framed in gold by another –*

*Set off just so. If only that were a life, tidy even  
At the edges. If only the ketchup stayed on the bun,  
Did not splatter across plate and shirt leaving its signature*

*As if the mark of some providential hand.*

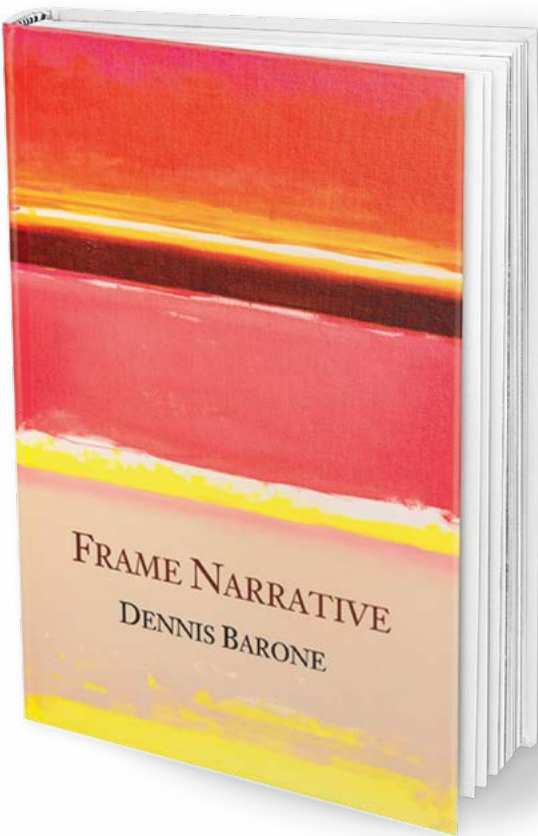


Illustration: Cover for *Frame Narrative*. Artwork by University of Hartford graduate Kyle Andrew Phillips, Icarus, oil on canvas, 2016.



This poem is the title poem of my most recent book (Blaze VOX 2018). A frame narrative is a common story-telling device. My poem perhaps has a three-part structure: description and statement, proposition and comparison, and a speculative conclusion. This poem appears exactly mid-book and rather than serve as frame narrative it considers the limitations of depicting, encapsulating, framing a life – a flower's or a person's. It ends with a grand metaphysical speculation situated in the most ordinary of things. Call it the theology of the hamburger or the blood of the bun. Mysteries may construct a frame as their only explanation.



# CAMPUS SNAP SHOTS



**Photo 1 & 2: Monday, May 13, 2019,** the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) held its 84th commencement ceremony at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. Family and friends gathered in the audience as the University awarded 235 bachelor's degrees, 500 master's degrees, and more than 80 doctoral degrees. Picture 2 is of four honored recipients of the evening and proud future pharmacists.

**Photo 3:** President Free, VP, Institutional Advancement Maggie Pinney '95, William Petit Jr. and members of the Petit Family Foundation including Kristina Petit '21, gathered at the garden of Four O'Clocks flowers, dear to Michaela Petit. Michaela's Garden Project is designed to encourage area families and youth to become more involved in community service. A plaque placed there reads, "Michaela's Garden, First Children's State Flower in the USA, a project of the Petit Family Foundation. Learn more at [www.petitfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.petitfamilyfoundation.org)

**Photo 4:** The inaugural graduating class of USJ Physician Assistants. This group has the distinction of obtaining a 100% pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. Congratulations!

**Photo 5:** The University of Saint Joseph held its annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony in the Hoffman Auditorium of Bruyette Athenaeum. As students from USJ's undergraduate programs took their places on stage, families and friends watched proudly from the audience.

**Photo 6:** In front of Mercy Hall is ongoing construction to further improve campus access for all. Ramps, automatic doors and other improvements will be installed. These upgrades will ensure easy access to all buildings on campus and symbolize USJ's commitment to growing as a modern university.

**Photo 7:** Students gather in front of the McDonough Hall on the grassy area of Flagpole Island for the 2019 new student orientation day. Ice breakers, social activities, informational events and more are just part of the day's fun.

**Photo 8:** The University of Saint Joseph department of Nursing held their Graduate Nursing Hooding Ceremony in the Bruyette Athenaeum.

**Photo 9:** The 9th Annual Imagine...The Sky's the Limit Gala, at the Connecticut Convention Center and emceed by FOX 61 News anchor Amanda Raus. The University of Saint Joseph celebrated the great progress we have made to date while raising funds for three very important initiatives: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders, Supporting Faculty Who Inspire and Meeting Special Needs. These three initiatives help ensure that USJ's Mission and Core Values are brought to life each and every day on our campus.

Pictured from left to right: Anthony De Jesús, MSW, ED.D., ED.M., Associate Professor of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice, Madeline Pérez De Jesús, PH.D., M.PHIL., M.S.W., Associate Professor of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice, Amanda Raus, FOX 61 News anchor, President Free, Noraleen and Scott LeClaire





# A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

## SOFTBALL WINS 2019 GNAC CHAMPIONSHIP

All year, the motto was ‘play anywhere, win anywhere’, and the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) softball team, through thick and thin, did just that, winning four-straight pressure-packed playoff games to become the 2019 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Champions on a cool Saturday evening last May at Daly Field in Boston.

With the victory, USJ secured the seventh GNAC Championship in school history and its first in 19 years when softball also took home the trophy in 2000. The Blue Jays also earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament with the win.

The Blue Jays, who defeated Simmons University (SU), 3-0, in the finale, marking the first shutout in the GNAC Championship game since 2013, won their final six games of the 2019 season, including going a perfect 4-0 in the GNAC Tournament. It marked the first GNAC Title under 14-year head coach Jim McKinnon.

“We had one goal at the start of the season. Get to the NCAA’s, and we did. Every one of these players did something on this team to help us get to this point,” said McKinnon following the victory.

“We were just hoping to go out with a bang, and this was all we could have asked for, and a whole lot more,” stated junior pitcher Amaria Sharon (Tolland, Conn.), who

was unstoppable throughout the tournament, tossing four complete games, including a seven-inning shutout against Simmons in the title game, a team that averaged nearly six runs a game all season and had only been shutout once. Sharon was awarded the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

In the victory, Sharon grabbed her 14th win of the season, allowing six hits in a complete game shutout. Simmons’ sophomore pitcher Hailey Yabroud (Amherst, N.H.) was handed the loss despite a well-rounded performance.

At the plate, it was sophomore Alessandra Milardo (Plantville, Conn.) who stepped up when it mattered most. She finished 2-for-3

with a double, single, stolen base, and two runs scored. Sophomore first baseman Amanda Thiel (Torrington, Conn.) also chipped in adding an RBI single, while Sharon finished 1-for-3 with a single and a run scored.

Seniors Isabella Russo (Southington, Conn.) and Morgan Skoly (Vernon, Conn.) and first-year left fielder Samantha Iannone (Wallingford, Conn.) all added a hit a piece in the win for the Blue Jays. Six different Sharks had a single, including left fielder Ivy Vann (Bend, Ore.) and first-year designated player Maddie Castigliengo (Bristol, R.I.).

The first two innings on defense for USJ were filled with several tremendous plays at shortstop from Russo, highlighted by a great diving stop in the hole to save a single. Meanwhile in the circle, Sharon’s changeup was virtually unhittable, as it was all tournament long.

In the bottom of the second inning, Milardo smacked a leadoff single to center. Skoly followed it with a pop bunt that dropped in between the pitcher and the first base line. With one out and Iannone up, the Blue Jays pulled a few tricks out of their pockets, performing a double steal. Both ended up safe, and when the catcher’s throw to third got away, Milardo took off for home, scoring run number one. Despite an Iannone single to follow, USJ would not get any more across in the inning, as the Sharks dialed in defensively, forcing a pop out and ground out to close the inning. 1-0 USJ.

Simmons made a great charge in USJ’s shutdown inning; a two-out rally with back-to-back-to-back singles, loading the bases for senior first baseman Dom Ortiz (Lawrence, Mass.). Ortiz let it fly off the barrel of the bat to



center field, but it was grabbed by Skoly, who came sprinting in for a pivotal third out to end the inning.

After a pair of 1-2-3 innings, Saint Joseph tacked on its second run, kicked off by Milardo once again. A leadoff double gave the Blue Jays some options. Skoly moved her to third with a sacrifice bunt, leaving a runner on third with one away for Thiel. She wasted no time, finding the first pitch she liked and sliced an RBI single to right field. The Sharks showed poise once more though, keeping it at just a run. 2-0 USJ after four inning.

A leadoff single by the Sharks was not enough to faze the Blue Jays, who grabbed two force outs at second, and a great lineout catch from Iannone in left ended the top of the fifth. In the bottom half, Sharon hit a leadoff single to left before senior third baseman Kara Klimaszewski (Naugatuck, Conn.) showed her experience with a well-placed bunt just a few feet in front of home plate, moving Sharon to second. Russo stepped in next with one away and hit a ground ball. However, as she raced for a photo finish at first, the throw went wide, and Sharon jumped on it, scoring easily from third to make it 3-0.

Sharon and company went back to work, now six outs from glory. The sixth was all Klimaszewski, who picked up three straight groundballs cleanly to complete the sixth, each throw a bullet to first with ease.

The Sharks were down to their last three outs. A quick groundout put one away. A single from first-year third baseman Alex Morang (Windham, Maine), gave the Sharks a fighting chance. But then, first-year shortstop Allie Mulhern (Westford, Mass.) stepped into the box. In what seemed like half a second, Mulhern fouled a ball up into the air, first-year catcher Lindsey O’Bright (New Britain, Conn.) sacrificed her body to make the play, and then had the IQ to throw the ball to first to get the double play before Morang could retreat to end the game.

The Blue Jay dugout erupted, racing to the circle to mob Sharon and fellow teammates. Bear hugs were given at will while tears trickled down the eyes of 24 of softball’s best. 24 champions. It was a night to remember: the University of Saint Joseph Blue Jays were the 2019 GNAC Champions.

“It’s something they are always going to remember. They’ll have that banner up in the gym every time they come back,” were McKinnon’s final words. 🏆





# AMANDA DEVITT

*Named USJ's First Female  
Athletic Director*



Recently, [www.usjbluejays.com](http://www.usjbluejays.com) sat down with Devitt to learn more about her past experiences and what she has planned for the future of USJ athletics.

**Q: What are you looking forward to most as USJ's new Athletic Director?**

**A:** I am excited about the growth of the school and the athletic department but I am most excited to work with our coaches and student-athletes! Developing and mentoring student-athletes is why I got into college athletics and I am honored to be part of that at USJ.

**Q: What does it mean to you to be named the first female Athletic Director in the history of USJ?**

**A:** It is an exciting time at USJ and I am honored to lead the Athletic Department especially at an institution that has a commitment to Women as part of their core values.

**Q: How do you anticipate your background in academics and student-athlete services to help benefit USJ's student-athletes?**

**A:** My first priority will always be the student-athlete experience and helping them be successful both as a student and an athlete. I have had the chance to see what helps student-athletes be successful through working in student-athlete services and will bring those experiences to our student-athletes here at USJ.

**Q: Who are some of your biggest inspirations and mentors that you have had in your life, and how do they still impact you?**

**A:** The biggest inspirations to me have been my parents. They are both hardworking, upbeat, and honest people that treat everyone with respect. I have tried to live by that every day and they are amazing examples of high character people.

**Q: You were a collegiate women's basketball head coach for nine years. What has coaching meant to you and how has it played an important role in furthering your career?**

**A:** Coaching allowed me to gain experience in athletics and work with student-athletes that shared a common goal. It helps in relating to both coaches and student-athletes so when I moved into an administrative role I was able to work well with both groups and make decisions based on my past experiences.

**Q: How do you anticipate that athletics can help continue USJ's coeducational transition?**

**A:** Our coaches have worked extremely hard in recruiting quality male and female student-athletes to help increase enrollment at the institution. We are hoping to provide entertainment for our campus with exciting competitions and also offer some recreational activities for our student body. Our Student Affairs team has done a great job at creating excitement on campus and we look forward to teaming with them to do the same.

**Q: What are your long-term goals for the athletic department?**

**A:** My goals for the department are to enhance the student-athlete experience, graduate student-athletes, and win championships with integrity. In year one, I will meet with as many people on and off campus as possible to increase our brand and observe how the department operates. As the year goes on we will be adding to our goals and be ready to develop and implement them. 🏆

# COACH CALHOUN ACCEPTS ESPYS BEST COACH AWARD

Every year after the MLB All-Star Game, there is an unusual day in which none of the four major North American sports leagues (MLB, NBA, NFL, NHL) have a game on the schedule. Thankfully, the ESPY Awards are always there to fill the void and this year, University of Saint Joseph (USJ) head men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun accepted the "Best Coach" award at the ESPYS on Wednesday, July 10 at Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California.

The award has been presented annually since 1993 and for most of the ESPYS history, it was voted on by fans as a Coach/Manager of the Year award, producing recipients such as Gregg Popovich, Phil Jackson, Bill Belichick, and Joe Torre. However, in 2017, producers chose a new direction for the honor and the show now recognizes coaches whose career dedication to the job exceeds yearly wins, losses, and championships.

In 2017, ESPN gave the nod to legendary New Jersey high school coach Bob Hurley and in 2018 it went posthumously to three Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School coaches who died in the tragic mass shooting. According to ESPYS executive producer Maura Mandt, it is now awarded to someone who represents "the epitome of a coach" and it hopes to recognize not only Coach Calhoun's accomplishments but also his lifelong commitment to coaching.

In front of a sold-out crowd inside Microsoft Theatre filled with today's professional athletes and celebrities, Coach Calhoun delivered a four-minute speech in which he thanked the mentors, coaches, and teachers who encouraged him toward success when he was young.

"Standing up here at 77 years old, this is about more than basketball," Calhoun said. "It's about all the coaches, all the teachers out there who, no matter what, they believe that coaching, teaching and making a difference in folks lives is so important."



Calhoun also described how his high school coach, principal and other mentors guided him after his father died, pushing him toward a college basketball scholarship.

"This is the most incredible experience a man or woman can ever have: to help someone the same way those folks helped me many years ago and got me back on track to play the game I love," he said. "I've tried to do that for the past 50 years."

Calhoun most recently finished his 41st season as a collegiate head coach, guiding the Blue Jays to a 16-12 mark and GNAC championship game appearance in their inaugural season in 2018-19. Prior to USJ, he spent 26 years at the University of Connecticut, highlighted by three national championships, and the previous 14 years to that at Northeastern University.

Calhoun sports a career record of 889-392, which currently ranks fourth among Division I head coaches and 11th on the all-division list. He passed legendary coaches Adolph Rupp and Dean Smith last season and is 13 wins away from catching Bob Knight. 🏆



# Bruyette Natatorium Foundational to Student-Athlete Success

By Sarah Keane '19

In 1993, long-time philanthropic supporters Kathleen Barry Bruyette '49, DAA'99, H'04, DAA'16, P'81 and her husband Gene H'04, DAA'16, P'81 who had been longtime contributors, made a decision that would forever change then-Saint Joseph College. Demonstrating a commitment to meeting the College's needs through community outreach and student recruitment, they made a significant gift, resulting in the creation of the Kathleen Barry Bruyette '49 Natatorium (more sentimentally called the "Nanatorium" by their grandchildren). This answered the demands of the students for a more modern sports facility and led to improvements in the swim team that are still seen and felt more than two decades later.

One notable improvement that continues is the academic achievement of the team.

"Nine out of my 16 women had at least a 3.5 GPA," Swim Coach Brenda Straker said, which earned them spots on the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association's 2018-2019 Spring All-Academic Team.

Many of the women credit swimming for their outstanding academic achievement.

"Swimming at USJ was the best thing I could do. As I got focused in my swimming, my grades improved," Gabriella Alberino '20 noted. "It helped me not only



improve as a swimmer, but as a student and a person."

These accomplishments continue to contribute to the team's improvement.

"Every year we're getting better and better," Coach Straker remarked. "We're breaking records, and the team's getting bigger."

In 2014, Coach Straker's first year, there were only four members on the team. Today, not only has there been an increase in women on the team, but Coach Straker also built the men's program "from scratch."

While she admitted that it took some time to get acclimated, in the long run, having the men as an addition to the team turned out to be a success and well-received by the women. Coach Straker called this year "monumental," in regards to the positive response the women had to the men on the team after their initial hesitation.

Elizabeth Sears '20 admitted she was fearful of the changes that

coeducation would bring. However, her anxieties were eased once she realized that the men were just as dedicated and passionate about swimming as she was. Gabriella Alberino '20 observed that having the men on the team helped the women's swimming improve.

It is not only the addition of new members to the team that has shown the positive impact of the Bruyettes' philanthropy, but also the retention of alumni who remain faithful swimmers in the Natatorium, as well as its attraction to recreational swimmers of all ages.

Sister Christel Nolan '49, C'71, frequently enjoys a half hour swim at the pool, while Bishop Peter Rosazza, who swam competitively at Dartmouth University, is a regular at the Bruyette Natatorium, stopping by three to four times a week for a swim.

He expresses his gratitude towards what he calls the "outstanding Bruyette Natatorium," saying his workouts there are a contributing factor to his good health at age 84.

These accomplishments and the many positive responses from those who enjoy the Bruyette Natatorium demonstrate the great impact of philanthropy on the institution. These contributions are key to the continued success of the University. 🏊

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2019

The Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) are a time-honored tradition at USJ and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our impressive community of alumni. Now in its 40th year, we are thrilled to continue this important ceremony. This year, we celebrate by honoring the 2019 recipients:

• **Kathleen McGrath Fitts '79** has been awarded the Mary Rosa McDonough Award. This award goes to a graduate who has achieved distinction in their professional field or has provided outstanding service to the University or their local community. As Assistant Vice President and Senior Corporate Counsel for Liberty Mutual Group in Boston, Kathleen coordinates Liberty Mutual's Pro Bono program. She was the chair of the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on Pro Bono from 2012 to 2018 and currently serves ad hoc on a subcommittee charged with increasing volunteering by corporate in-house lawyers. For 20 years, Kathy served on the Volunteer Lawyers Project Board and is currently the Vice Chair of Lawyers Clearinghouse Board and Chair of its subcommittee on Housing Shelter Clinics. Outside of work, Kathy is the Vice President of Lawrence District Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and has been a very active volunteer with the chapter at her home parish, Saint James of Haverhill, for 10 years. Kathleen graduated from Saint Joseph College with a bachelor's degree in English and went on to receive her J.D., with honors, from Boston College in 1988. She was voted one of the Top Women of the Law by *Lawyers Weekly* in 2010.

• **Maureen Gorman '86** has been awarded the Business and Entrepreneurial Award. This award goes to a graduate with a talent for seeing opportunities and developing those in successful businesses or organizations. Serving as Managing Director at Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. in New York, Maureen is described by one of her many nominators as, "an insightful female leader focused on results and service to others." She is skilled in all aspects of Property & Casualty Insurance, business development, mentoring, budgeting, Commercial Insurance, and public speaking. A female leader in a male-dominated industry, Maureen is highly regarded by her colleagues, friends, and family. Maureen graduated from Saint Joseph College in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and later went on to receive her master's degree in Financial Services from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1991.

We hope you can join us for the 40th Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 21, 2019 at the Hartford Golf Club. To RSVP and to read more about the honorees, please visit [www.usj.edu/daa](http://www.usj.edu/daa) or contact Amanda Burke at 860.231.5327 or [arburke@usj.edu](mailto:arburke@usj.edu).

And finally, throughout the coming year you will see a number of exciting changes on campus. Among these will be relocating the DAA Honoree Recognition Board from McDonough Hall to a more prominent and central location on the first floor of Mercy Hall, outside the Crystal Room. The next time you visit campus, please stop in and take a look!



# REUNION2019

Register Today

We invite you to join your fellow alumni for Reunion on Saturday, Sept. 21. Come for the Milestone and Class Brunch, the President's Reception, and the Parade of Classes. You'll have the opportunity to reminisce with old friends and connect with new ones!

Throughout the day's events, you'll also be able to enjoy gatherings, such as the Annual Alumni Association Meeting, Connections on the Quad, the Alumni & Benefactor Liturgy, and Campus Tours. For those looking to stroll down memory lane, you can sit in on a lecture by Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, H'17, M.Ed., entitled "The Legacy of Light: Connecticut Impressionist Painters Embrace Their Environment." With improvements currently underway, you can also listen in on a Renovation Presentation to visualize how USJ's campus will improve over the next few years.

To register, visit our website: [www.usj.edu/reunion](http://www.usj.edu/reunion), or contact Rachel Scully, Alumni Relations Coordinator, at 860.231.5447 or [rscully@usj.edu](mailto:rscully@usj.edu).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Alumni Office has planned an exciting year of events to bring together the USJ community!

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 12 p.m.**

Fairfield Alumni Club Fall Luncheon,  
*Knapp's Landing – Stratford, Conn.*

**Friday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m.**

Distinguished Alumni Awards, Hartford Golf Club  
*West Hartford, Conn.*

**Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.**

Reunion  
*USJ Campus*

**Monday, Sept. 30, Time TBD**

Aetna Alumni Lunch  
*Aetna, Hartford, Conn.*

**Saturday, Oct. 5, 8 a.m.**

Pounding the Pavement for Pink 5K  
Race with the Fairfield Alumni Club  
*Seymour, Conn.*

**Monday, Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m.**

Career Development Networking Event

**Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.**

Alumni Trivia Night  
*World of Beer – West Hartford, Conn.*

**Saturday, Oct. 12, 7:30 a.m.**

Hartford Marathon Water Station Volunteer  
*West Hartford, Conn.*

**Wednesday, Oct. 23**

Boston Area Alumni Luncheon  
*Time and place TBD*

**Sunday, Oct. 27, 4 p.m.**

Chapel Bells Mass, Connor Chapel of Our Lady  
*USJ Campus*

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.**

Fairfield Alumni Club Appalachia Wrap 2019

**Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, Time TBD**

Museum Trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
with Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, H'17  
*New York, NY*

**Saturday, May 9, 2020, 10 a.m.**

2020 Commencement – Class of 1970 Golden  
Anniversary

**Friday, June 5, 2020, 6 p.m.**

2020 Imagine...The Sky's the Limit Gala  
*Connecticut Convention Center – Hartford, Conn.*

## GALA

### Thank You for Supporting Gala 2019, Save the Date for Gala 2020



On June 10, 400 friends came together to celebrate and support the University of Saint Joseph's 9th Imagine...The Sky's the Limit Gala at the Connecticut Convention Center. FOX-61 news anchor Amanda Raus was the emcee for the evening, and guests enjoyed an exclusive silent auction, cocktails, dinner, and dancing.

President Rhona Free welcomed the guests and shared stories of the University's continued growth and success. A highlight of the evening was the President's announcement of a \$1 million gift to USJ to support Vision & Values: the Campaign for USJ, bringing the campaign total to \$37 million.

On June 5, 2020, we will celebrate the conclusion of the Vision & Values Campaign. Mark your calendars now and plan to be with us as we commemorate the largest campaign in USJ history. Planning is underway, and we are looking forward to welcoming a very special guest. Stay tuned for details!





# 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](mailto:emarone@usj.edu).

1944



**Antonina (Ann) Uccello '44, H'71, DAA'78**, was honored at Malta House of Care's "Celebrating Wonder Women" event in April. Alongside five other recipients, Ann was recognized for her years of service to the community – both as the first female mayor of a U.S. capital city and as Director of Consumer Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation.

1958

**Joyce Feldman Knapton '58** is still working as a realtor and nutritional consultant. She has more than 50 healthy grandchildren and great grandchildren.

1962

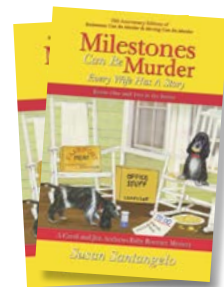


In May, USJ alumnae enjoyed reminiscing during lunch at the Glen Club in Glenview, Ill. Pictured are (L to R): **Diane Thomas**, Institutional Advancement; **Mary Ann McCann Jones '75**; **Jean Bernius '75**; **Joan Brennan Meyer '53**; **Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62**; **Judy Broggi LeSage '62**; and **Pat Doba Hensing '61**.



**Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62, DAA'17** Standing in front of St. Anne's Church, in Bethlehem, which is built over the home of St. Anne and the birthplace of the Blessed Mother.

1965



**Milestones Can Be Murder**, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Baby Boomer mystery series penned by **Susan Santangelo, '65**, was released by Suspense Publishing in July. Check it out on Amazon.

1966



Good friends **Karen Beakey Mansfield '66** and **Mary Pierce Doherty '67** reminisced during breakfast at Tyson's Corner in April. They compared notes on their recent travel adventures.

1979

**Alisa Brandon Piech '79** retired in 2016 after 37 years as a special education teacher. Most of those years were spent in Southington, Conn. Her daughter, Danielle, married in 2017 and earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2018. Her son, Peter, a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is a software engineer living in Norwalk, Conn.



**Rita Weidman '79** and her family were thanked by Coach Calhoun for their generous gift to USJ athletics.

1986

**Maureen Luddy Brummett '86** was named Superintendent of Newington Public Schools in 2019.

2002



**Clara Bernardo '02** brought her two children to the USJ campus for the first time. Clara's daughter, Hailey, was very excited to find her middle name on the senior rock and can't wait to paint it when she is a Blue Jay.

2004

**Eileen Wirtes '04**, a graduate of USJ's Nursing program, married Rick LoBrutto on July 27, 2019 at St. Maron's Church. The wedding was a USJ affair, as her husband's mother, **Rhonda Dablain LoBrutto '68**, is an alumna as well. Rhonda and her husband Richard are excited to welcome Eileen to the family.

2009



**Carrie Hess Marcoux '09** wed Daniel Marcoux on Oct. 6, 2018 in South Tamworth, N.H.

2012

**David Wasserman, M'12**, released his second book of poetry on July 30, 2019. Entitled "Dealing: Tarot Poems and Pictures," his new work – published by Unsolicited Press – is a collaboration with Helen Castillo from "Project Runway." Sales from the book, which combines Helen's artwork with David's tarot card-inspired poems, will benefit Literacy, Inc., a charity based in New York City.

2014

**Angelina Cardoso '14** now works as a Curriculum Developer and Implementation Specialist at a charter school.



**LYNN DENINO-FAHEY '97, M'00**, who passed away in May 2018, was honored by Hopewell Elementary School in Glastonbury, Conn., where she worked as a teacher. In the school's rock garden, which sits in front of the building, the staff and faculty dedicated a peace pole in her memory. The hand-crafted pole shows visitors "The Fahey Way," highlighting Lynn's tradition of creating a classroom where students learned to laugh and show caring and kind behaviors. A believer in the potential of all students, she challenged her classes to always do their best work. Now, Lynn, who was a beloved mentor and volunteer in her community, will continue to touch the lives of all those who enter the garden.





# IN MEMORIAM

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

Louise Nichols Clarke '43

Lucia Tomasso Scheer '45

Janet V. Bartosiak '48

S. Marion Pikul '49

Joan Prendergast Pilz '50

Marita A. Ryan '50, DAA'84

Rita Bumster Barry '51

Angela Carroccia Basile '52

Fleurette Fradette Shingler '52

Marilyn Loughlin Yandow '53

Carole Banks Gornish '54

Maureen Dunn Fox '55, P'81, P'82, DAA'84

Mary Lou Shea Holmes '55

Marjorie A. Wentland Caldwell '58

Frances Heaton Finn '58

Elizabeth Andrews Doyle '59

M. Frederick Tkacz, RSM, '61

Teresa Ann Smith Coulombe '63

Mary Ann McNamara, RSM, '63, M'74

Eleanor Rathburn, RSM, '63

Sylvia Cohen Sheketoff, M'67

Pamela Connolly Bartlett '68

Sharen Seedman Baker '63

Joyce Thomas, M'84

Carolyn Ewanco McEvitt '91

Jennifer Dempsey Wallberg '91

Kristin Berenson, M'97

Lilian Klinger, M'03

Ronald Michael Biamonte, M'04

Chapel Bells will be held in fall 2019. If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact Amanda Sherman, Stewardship Coordinator, at 860.231.5462 or [asherman@usj.edu](mailto:asherman@usj.edu).

## THE USJ ANNUAL FUND

### A GIFT TO THE USJ ANNUAL FUND ALLOWS US TO SUPPORT DESERVING STUDENTS HAVE A USJ EDUCATION

There is always so much to celebrate at the University of Saint Joseph, and the 2019-2020 academic year is no exception! Each year, our goal is to foster student success by facilitating an excellent student experience, and support from alumni like you makes that possible. A gift to the USJ Annual Fund supports every aspect of student life, from updated campus facilities and athletic equipment to academic research projects and student activities. Your generosity makes it possible for us to grow our community and provide students with all the resources they need to succeed.

June 30, 2020 marks the end of our Vision & Values campaign; we are focused on reaching our goal of \$38 million to enhance the USJ student experience and continue to graduate students who embody our Core Values. With just \$1 million left to raise, support from alumni and friends like you is essential in our continued efforts to graduate hardworking, compassionate, and successful students.

Please help us reach – or surpass! – our goal and continue to provide an excellent educational experience by making your gift to the USJ Annual Fund.

To make your gift today, you can:

- Visit [www.usj.edu/give](http://www.usj.edu/give)
- Return the enclosed envelope
- Call 860.231.5327

We are also working with the AmazonSmile Foundation to turn your shopping into a force for good. When you shop on Amazon by visiting [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select University of Saint Joseph as your charity, AmazonSmile donates a percentage of your purchase to the USJ Annual Fund. Turn your shopping into a charitable donation and support USJ at no extra cost.

Thank you for your support!

### JOIN THE FOUNDERS' CIRCLE!

The Founders' Circle Giving Society recognizes those generous donors who contribute \$1,000 or more in a given fiscal year. Your Founders' Circle membership entitles you to two exclusive events, special recognition in our Annual Report, advance notification of news and events, and a USJ Founders' Circle coffee mug – all while giving back to the institution we all love! Joining the Founders' Circle is easy: simply donate \$1,000 or more to any cause at USJ. Your donation will also help USJ raise the final \$1 million for the Vision & Values Campaign. We hope you will join the Founders' Circle and help provide an education for all.





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This issue of Outlook has been produced with solar power, LED cured vegetable-based inks and proofed electronically to further reduce waste. The paper comes from responsibly managed forests and verified recycled sources.

## 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](http://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**

### «Shared Space: A New Era. Photographs from the Bank of America Collection

This exhibition has been loaned through the Bank of America Art in our Communities® program.

[www.usj.edu/sharedspace](http://www.usj.edu/sharedspace)

**Jan. 17 - March 15**

#### Events:

**Sept. 12** – Opening Reception, 5-7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 21** – Free guided tours of the exhibition at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in conjunction with Smithsonian Museum Day

**Nov 24.** – Family Day, 1-3 p.m.



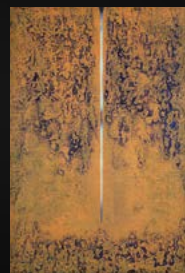
Hans Neleman (b. 1960)  
*Parangi Hillman*, 1999.  
Digital print. Gift of Hans Neleman, 2017.

### «Moko - Maori Tattoo: Photographs by Hans Neleman

**Jan. 17 - March 15**

#### Events

**Feb. 20** – Artist's Talk, 7 p.m.  
(Feb 27 snow date)



Tajima Hiroyuki (1911-1984).  
*Lyrical Vestige*, 1980.  
Woodcut printed in color.  
Gift of Shuyu Gallery,  
Tokyo, Japan, 2017.

### «Tajima in Relief

[www.usj.edu/tajima](http://www.usj.edu/tajima)

**April 3 - June 14**

#### Events:

**April 2** – Opening

Reception, 5-7:30 p.m.

**May 3** – Family Day, 1-3 p.m.

THE AUTORINO  
**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
AND HUMANITIES  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

2019-2020 SEASON

# DISRUPTION

## ARTS & LECTURES



### 11TH ANNUAL NOCHE LATINA

**Friday Oct. 4, 2019**

**6 p.m. Reception**

**7 p.m. Concert**

Listen to the Latin rhythms that revolutionized American Jazz - from Mambo mania in the 50s to the Bossa Nova craze in the 60s!

### Pang!

**Friday, Oct. 25, 2019**

**7:30 p.m.**

An evening of three highly original theater pieces about real families facing challenges of contemporary working class life in America - with love, humor and intelligence.

Join us for our year-long season of Disruption.  
For more info go to:  
[AUTORINO.USJ.EDU](http://AUTORINO.USJ.EDU)

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