

OUTLOOK Magazine



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Student Success & Engagement



GIFT SUPPORTS RESEARCH AT THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CENTER

Established in 2016, the Women’s Leadership Center (WLC) at the University of Saint Joseph is committed to developing inspiring and effective leaders. The Center, led by Executive Director Melanie Sinche, M.Ed., M.A., and a steering council of leaders from within the University and the Greater Hartford community, has established the following goals:

- Develop and implement programming that offers leadership training in a variety of disciplines and modalities
- Promote and support research on women’s leadership by students, faculty, and other scholars
- Establish formal internal and external networks of mentoring and sponsorship opportunities
- Enhance the reputation of USJ and the WLC beyond the local area
- Create a sustainable and stable WLC



Efforts to support research took a major step forward last fall, when Trustee and Leadership Council Chair Paddi LeShane made a gift to establish The Ruth A. Roland Ph.D. Fund for Research in Women’s Leadership. The Fund celebrates the life of Dr. Roland, who in 1939, left her family home in Schenectady, New York, one week

after graduating from high school. Attending college at night while working during the day, she received her B.A. magna cum laude from Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. in 1958. With a concentration in Southeast Asian History, she was awarded her M.A. in 1963 and her Ph.D. in 1969. From 1966 – 1990, Dr. Roland was a professor of Political Science at Georgia Southwestern College.

Ms. LeShane was inspired to establish the Fund for Research because she views Dr. Roland, who was esteemed by her students and colleagues and beloved by her family, as an inspiration for USJ faculty and students who are interested in advancing women’s leadership through research. As Ms. LeShane recounts, Dr. Roland took the risk “to head off to an unknown place, eventually finding her way into the international world and being a self-sufficient, daring, and fun lady. These qualities are what the Women’s Leadership Center is all about.”

Following a request for proposals this fall, the first-ever Ruth A. Roland grant has been awarded to Madeline Pérez DeJesús, Ph.D., M.Phil., MSW; Anthony DeJesús, MSW, Ed.D., Ed.M.; and graduate School Counseling student Mary Schone for their project, The Adelante Research Project: College and Career Journeys of Latina Adult Learners. This study seeks to discover what factors facilitate and constrain Latina adult learners with undergraduate degree completion. In other words, which factors support, encourage, and empower Latina adult learners to earn a degree and expand their job growth potential and leadership potential? Dr. Pérez and her team will report on the findings of their research as part of the Women’s Leadership Center’s 2019-2020 programming.



Pictured from left to right: Anthony DeJesús, Mary Schone, Madeline Pérez DeJesús

WLC Executive Director Melanie Sinche said, “We are extremely grateful for Paddi’s leadership. Many of us have been inspired by our mothers, aunts, or neighbors, and we long to celebrate the important women in our lives. The Women’s Leadership Center is a perfect vehicle to turn gratitude into meaningful action. By investing in skill building and research, we can deliver crucial leadership opportunities to women of all ages in the Greater Hartford community.” To get involved with the Women’s Leadership Center or to make a gift to support the program, visit <http://www.usj.edu/donatenow>.

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PRESIDENT'S INSIGHTS



In June 2014, The Chronicle of Higher Education published an article entitled, “Want a College Experience That Matters? Get to Work.” Philip D. Gardner, director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University, asserts in the article: “The idea of work and academic training should be inseparable. Students absolutely need as many experiences as they can get outside the academy, testing their knowledge base, learning how they can use it and how to build the broader skills that go around it.”

That employers value this type of experience was affirmed in an Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) recent report indicating that 79 percent of employers want colleges to place more emphasis on internships or community-based field projects that teach students to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. In addition to preparing students for employment, evidence from a Gallup-Purdue Index shows that graduates who participated in community projects, internships, or jobs where they were able to apply their classroom knowledge were three times as likely to be engaged at work after graduation. Those who had done a long-term project, held an internship, or participated heavily in extracurricular activities or organizations doubled their chances of being engaged at work.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) refers to these types of student experiences as “high impact practices,” and they include service-learning, research with faculty, and internships or other field experiences. NSSE results reveal that USJ students are much more likely to participate in high impact practices than the national average. At USJ, 83 percent of seniors – compared to 74 percent of students nationally – participated in service learning. Thirty-four percent of USJ students, compared to 28 percent of students nationally, participated in research with faculty. And 78 percent of USJ students, compared to 67 percent of students nationally, reported completing an internship or field experience.

The University of Saint Joseph has a long history of ensuring that students apply classroom learning to real-world settings. Student teaching, clinical rotations, field placements, service-learning, and internships have been key components of requirements for degrees at USJ for decades. With so many opportunities close at hand, experiential education has helped build the workforce with graduates who have the real-world experience that allows them to contribute to their workplaces and meet community needs.

This edition of Outlook offers a range of examples of students engaging in high-impact practices. You will read about our Strategic Plan goals of student success and engagement, and hear from University leaders dedicated to ensuring that students are fully involved on campus and in preparing for career success when they graduate. One of the most helpful ways that alumni and friends of USJ can support students is by providing information about internships, field placements, or community engagement opportunities. If you know of – or would like to develop – such connections, please contact Melanie Sinche at USJ’s Office of Career Development (860.231.5228 or msinche@usj.edu).

Rhona C. Free

Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.
President

Living the Mission at USJ

Diana Sousa, MBA

Integrating the University’s Mission and its Core Values more fully in student life and community engagement is more than just a goal of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Strategic Plan; it is the heart of the USJ experience. Our mission defines the University’s purpose, and the Core Values speak to the ways in which we live and work together to achieve our mission. They go hand-in-hand every day at USJ.

Recently, in honor of the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in the United States, USJ hosted 18 activities, from October through December 2018, to make a profound impact on the surrounding communities and beyond.


“I think, for me, it is wonderful to see our community and groups come together with excitement in being able to give with joy and compassion,” said Campus Ministry Director Lynnette Colón, M.A., LPC.

“It is a reminder that mercy is real, mercy is here, and should always be the foundation in all we do because it can move mountains.”

From our Core Curriculum for undergraduate students and the annual Common Read to lectures, community service, and the Mercy Path on campus, our Core Values surround us. For alumni, the values they experienced at USJ continue to guide them post-graduation.

Our alumna, Jasmin Flores ’01, ’04, RN, became an unexpected hero to a family in Connecticut. Rather than present her with an award, USJ hosted free CPR training on campus. Students, faculty, staff, and the community came together to gain life-saving CPR skills. Flores returned to campus to participate in this training session. “The main reason why I came was to promote CPR and to

make people aware of how important it is and how it can truly save lives. I’m very grateful for Saint Joe’s to host this event and to help me accomplish one of my goals, which is to promote CPR,” Flores said.

Since 2005, USJ and the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry - an outreach program of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church - have partnered together to have students, faculty, and parishioners work with the underserved community in Hartford. “Through community service, USJ students benefit by experiencing how what they learn in our classrooms turns into making a positive difference in people’s lives and through the life enrichment our students receive by meeting with individuals who face tough challenges. We all come away feeling very blessed and grateful for all that we have,” said Department Chair and Director of Traditional Undergraduate and Accelerated Nursing Programs, Associate Professor of Nursing Janet Knecht, Ph.D., MSN. 

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.





Leveraging the University's Location for Residential Life and Extracurricular Activities

By Diana Sousa, MBA

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1932, The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) being centrally situated in New England with easy access to New York City, has been a key factor in attracting students to residential life and engaging them in extracurricular activities. Nearly 90 years later, now with two campuses in Greater Hartford, our location continues to be a top reason why undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from near and far choose USJ for their studies.

To meet the needs of our expanded undergraduate enrollment and an increase in residential students in 2018, USJ's Vice President for Student Affairs, Ken Bedini, and his team, began planning a new approach to student activities, starting with the basics. He noted, "With new students coming in the fall, we knew we had to prepare for student government elections and other important leadership roles early in the semester. We were excited to see a diverse population come forward and want to get involved with student life on campus."

With new leadership in place, the Student Programs and Events Council updated the Council's name to Saint Joseph's Activities Council, while the new Student Government Association (SGA) went into high gear—new clubs formed, including a Step Team and the Black Student Union to create awareness and develop Afro-American consciousness at USJ. Using our campus setting as the hub of programming, the SGA and Student Affairs were able to increase the number of sponsored events from about a dozen in fall 2017 to more than 50 in fall 2018. In spring 2019, USJ students have access to more than 90 sponsored extracurricular events.

To help students find easy access to campus, internships or jobs, and extracurricular activities, the University of Saint Joseph was the first private college to establish the UPASS program with the State of Connecticut Transportation Department. UPASS is a USJ pre-paid ticket, given to full-time undergraduates, that

provides unlimited rides to anywhere within the state public transportation system, including use of CT FastTrack buses and Metro-North trains. Because of our central location on two bus lines, free access to public transportation has enabled more students to take advantage of our state's academic, sports, recreational, arts-related, and community service activities.

With approximately 65 percent of current undergraduates living off-campus and a goal to increase participation in programs, the Student Affairs team, along with the new student leaders, needed some fresh data. What programming would make students want to come back to campus or stay late? How could activities fit in between classes, work, commuting, sports, and recreational activities? The feedback was clear. To get more students engaged, we needed to offer: information about programs accessible via mobile devices; a broader range of activities; events held later in the evening and on weekends; extended Jay's Nest and cafeteria hours, along with increases in the amount and variety of food offerings; and access to transportation around the state—especially to USJ-sponsored events.

Kristy Santos, Director of Student Affairs at USJ, commented on the changes we have experienced during the last year and plans for the future, "The student leaders and staff within Student Affairs have been working together to find long-term solutions that fit both the needs of our community and our Strategic Plan. We continue to expand our offerings and make them more attractive to our student body. Active programming on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights has been our focus, with the goal of creating a vibrant campus. The number of students in campus housing continues to rise, and is now the highest occupancy in six years."

To keep up with events on campus and learn more about Student Affairs activities, visit our website www.usj.edu/student-life/get-involved/.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Kirsten Martin, Ph.D.

FIELDWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Elizabeth Marone '15

Originally interested in a career as a park ranger, Kirsten Martin, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology, tried on many hats before entering the world of academia. It was the final course of her master's degree program, an entomology course, that ultimately influenced her career. "I tell my students, 'the bug bit me - quite literally,'" Dr. Martin said.

Throughout her tenure at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), Dr. Martin has implemented numerous programs related to her passions. From water-based work and environmental assessments to dragonfly research and the USJ Grasslands Project, her determination to study the world around her and play a part in its improvement has impacted her students and their ultimate courses of study.

"I'm a huge believer in hands-on learning," Dr. Martin explained. "It, oftentimes, frees students up to ask questions they may not feel comfortable asking in the classroom."

One area that provides students with important hands-on experience is Dr. Martin's water monitoring work. As founder, organizer, and leader of the Scantic River Water Monitoring Program, Dr. Martin oversees the sampling and monitoring of the river. USJ students join forces with volunteers from the local community to test monthly water samples from every road crossing of the Scantic River.

Dr. Martin's work with water also extends to collaborative projects with the Connecticut River Conservancy, including the Scantic River E. coli Monitoring Program. As one of the original



volunteers in the state, Dr. Martin's extensive work has led to internship experiences for USJ students. Each summer, four to 10 students collect weekly water samples from sites along the river, analyze them for E. coli levels, and post results online for residents to review.

"My students are always either working with community members or have a connection with the individuals who are going to use the data," Dr. Martin said. "It's not just working in a lab and never seeing where that data's going. When they're in my projects, even if they're in the lab, every single one of my students has had some kind of connection with the outside world."

Because of this, the local and regional community has taken notice of Dr. Martin and USJ, recognizing the vital role both she and the University's students play in Connecticut's environmental research. Most recently, the Connecticut chapter of

the Sierra Club contacted Dr. Martin directly to explore a partnership with other governmental agencies and conservation groups that would develop an integrative bacterial monitoring program for the Scantic River Watershed. Experiences such as this allow students to network with professionals in the area, creating connections that often lead to jobs after graduation.

The prospect of these critical connections is at the root of Dr. Martin's drive for student involvement outside the classroom. Whether they helped her in last year's USJ BioBlitz or this year's STEAM Days for local schools, students gain important experience they can use in their future careers. Dr. Martin also helps students learn about potential career options by organizing the Women L.E.A.D. (Lead, Empower, Advance, Discover) in S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, And Mathematics) (WLIS) Speaker Series, which invites speakers from numerous science and humanities professions to share their experiences.

"I have a natural science background, so I always tell my students to look up and out - to not always be buried in a book or thinking that you know your path in life and not really noticing that there are other things out there. Be brave," she insisted. "If I had stayed as scared as I was as a young kid, I never would've found what it is I love to do. I would never have met incredibly wonderful people from around the world or mentored fantastically brilliant students and seen them succeed."

Collaborating for Success

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Throughout her career, Melanie Sinche, M.Ed., M.A., has found collaboration to be the key to success. Whether working with students at institutions like Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill or, most recently, serving as director of Education at The Jackson Laboratory, she has honed her ability to collaborate with others in the pursuit of their goals.

In December 2018, she arrived at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) to work in not one, but two departments on campus: the Career Development Center (CDC) and the Women's Leadership Center (WLC). "This, to me, is like coming home because I have been on university campuses for most of my 20-year career in career counseling," Sinche remarked.

As director of the CDC, Sinche will put in place key enhancements that contribute to student success, both during their college experience and beyond. Additionally, she will work diligently as director of the WLC to continue the momentum the Center has created since its inception in 2016.

"I am so excited to be working with the WLC at the University of Saint Joseph. I see this Center as an extension of both the rich legacy of the Sisters of Mercy and the history of the University," Sinche said.

Alongside the WLC's steering council, Sinche will focus her efforts directly on three main goals: developing programs centered on women's leadership, career, and professional development; conducting research on women in leadership roles and the economy's effect on women gaining access to those positions; and promoting mentorship and sponsorship among women across the state.

"There are so many areas that we still need to consider in terms of growth for women professionally. There are organizations locally that support women in various industries. I seek to bring our efforts together with the good work that has already been done across the state to elevate women, to celebrate women's accomplishments and successes, and to highlight what USJ students and alumni, in particular, have done in their own professional and personal lives," she explained.

In addition to collaborating with USJ alumni for the WLC, Sinche is eager to work with them in the CDC, as they will play a pivotal role in the creation of a robust employer development plan.

"We have, since the University's founding, been building relationships with people across all sectors and occupations. It's up to us now to identify and build a bridge to those alumni, and connect those alumni with current students."

"Often, when students work on a job search, they apply for jobs online with little success. But, if they were to connect with someone within an organization through an alumni networking database, and that person can say a word or two on their behalf, the chances that they will be contacted by that employer grow tenfold," she explained.

While enhancing USJ's relationships with local businesses, Sinche plans to expand experiential learning options for students. Whether through internships, volunteering, or job shadowing, time in the field proves crucial to students' success in their future careers.

"Most employers say they are happy to look at a candidate from any major; what they require for success on the job is actually experience," Sinche said. "Interviews are helpful in determining what skills a candidate has, at some level, but the employer's best evidence of future performance is past performance."

This experience can be found both on and off campus. Sinche considers on-campus employment to offer a host of possibilities for students. In a safe and comfortable environment, campus jobs offer students the ability to test out their interests in different fields, develop important skills, and build competitive résumés.

Sinche also aims to give USJ students more chances to present these impressive résumés to local employers. By working with other career center directors at universities in the Hartford area, she hopes to collaborate on projects, including a large career fair for local college students.

"It is critical to introduce students to internship and careers, and to encourage them to test out their networking skills: to try



approaching employers, to give their elevator pitches, and to share their résumés that have been strengthened by coming to our office and meeting with our career advisors," she said.

Sinche's collaboration will extend to other regional associations as well. Joining organizations like Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Manufacturing, and the Connecticut Center for Technology will help Sinche develop a stronger sense of trends in the regional economy, ultimately informing the crucial career advice she is able to share with students.

Whether guiding students in their pursuit of meaningful careers or supporting local women in achieving their leadership goals, Sinche looks forward to working closely with individuals on campus and in the community to contribute to success. She encourages anyone with ideas for the WLC, or for those interested in recruiting current USJ students for internships or employment, to contact her directly at msinche@usj.edu.



USJ JOINS THE PARTNERSHIP FOR INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

In 2017, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) was selected to be a part of the Partnership for Innovation and Education (PIE) Fellowship Program. Funded by a CTNext Grant, students may participate in a 10-week bioscience-, biohealth-, or bioengineering-related summer research program. From conducting biomedical research in laboratories to presenting at symposiums, this program aims to provide students with professional learning experiences to prepare them for their future careers.

USJ joins six other participating institutions in PIE. Facilitating USJ's chapter, Irene Guttilla Reed, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology, serves as PIE Site Director and Michelle Krackowski, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology, works as the University's PIE mentor.

"We're thrilled to have our students in this program! There are certain aspects of research skills that you cannot learn in a classroom. Going through the process of developing a research question, experiments, getting data, and troubleshooting experiments can only be mimicked in the classroom," said Krackowski.

Through a rigorous application and interview process, students were selected to participate in the program. Last summer's students were: Alexa Taylor '19, Sarah Palko '18, and Lauren Lewicki '21. This summer's students are: Olivia Anderson '19, Nathan Arthur '22, Mabintou Darboe '21, and Bianca Pappacoda '20. Through the CTNext Grant, these students receive a stipend for their summer research at UConn Health in Farmington, Conn., giving them an incentive to participate in these experiences without worrying about financial aid.

"Through this program, USJ can send students to larger research institutions," said Reed. "It opens up a lot of doors and learning opportunities for students."

During their 10-week research fellowships, students work with lab personnel, including graduate, post-doctoral, and Ph.D. candidate students. Each student has an individualized experience because they are matched to the lab that suits them best.

"Even though students take courses that involve lab components and scientific writing, until you're actually in

the lab or field doing the research, it's hard to communicate the fact that you're going to have a lot of failure, unknown questions, variables, and critical thinking involved. I think it's essential for students in research to take these internships because we do a pretty good job training them with elements of those experiences, but they get a lot more from participating in a more individual way," said Reed.

Alexa Taylor, a senior Biology major, focused her research on the role of CD13 in mediating intercellular transfer via tunneling nanotubes.

"I applied for this fellowship program to get more experience in biological research and to have a summer job that would be beneficial to my learning and my college experience. I am currently exploring my options for post-graduation, and I wanted to try research out," Taylor remarked.

Sarah Palko graduated in December 2018 with her bachelor's degree in Biology. Her research centered on age-related macular degeneration.

"I loved every minute of my time at UConn Health and have even accepted an offer to continue my Ph.D. in this lab. USJ gave me the opportunity of a lifetime by allowing me to find this lab at UConn. It has truly shaped my whole future," said Palko.

Lauren Lewicki, a sophomore Biochemistry major, conducted research on generating a lentiviral genomic packaging system.

"This program, for me, made me realize how important all subjects are," said Lewicki. "You can do great research, but unless you have the reading and the writing skills, how can you communicate what you did to others? I really liked the experience because it was something that I've never



done before. When I was doing the research, I was able to apply the things I learned in class."

This summer research experience is complemented by an Innovation Summer Series and an end-of-program Research Day Symposium. Students also have weekly seminars that offer information on graduate school and research options, public speaking skills, networking, and more. The CTNext Grant will expire in 2020, but Reed and Krackowski hope to extend that.

"The goal is to make this program more sustainable and a long-term endeavor at USJ in order to support research for faculty and students. These lab experiences are meaningful and help build our students' and faculty's résumés. We're always sending them our best students, who are capable, skillful, driven, and motivated, but we need to expand our capabilities to enable USJ to provide more opportunities to these outstanding students on our own campus year round," said Krackowski.

To learn more about USJ's grants, visit www.usj.edu/make-gift



USJ's Thriving Student Athletic Activities

By Diana Sousa, MBA

For most college students, recreational or school team sports and extracurricular activities have been part of their lives for as long as they can remember. As far back as 1939, University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Founding Sisters ensured that a goal of our educational programming would be, "To maintain physical and mental health." While there may not have been National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sanctioned activities on campus until the 1990s, students enjoyed and benefited from participating in recreational field hockey, tennis, horseback riding, and many forms of dance. Today, USJ student-athletes participate in Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) team sports, such as softball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and swimming/diving. Additionally, Student Affairs, including the Athletics department, offers activities like one-night basketball and volleyball tournaments, sand volleyball games, 3K or 5K runs, and even Fitness Bingo.

Whether students play a varsity sport or participate in recreational activities, they are building bonds with each other, while learning teamwork and time management skills. In addition to the physical and mental health benefits, recreational or club sports teams also offer leadership skill building in terms of recruiting and managing participants, in some cases travel planning, fundraising, scheduling practices and games, and ensuring inclusive participant development.

For USJ athletic coaches, recruiting for the next season happens almost year-round. They travel across the country to watch students play with their high school teams or in recreational sports programs. The love of the game, the ability to help develop a student-athlete, and the chance to build a cohesive team are what is most important to them, and they've seen students benefit time and time again from being involved with sports.

When the NCAA accepted Saint Joseph College into Division III in 1995, our students competed in volleyball, basketball, tennis, and softball. As student-athlete enrollment grew, so did the number of athletic teams to include swimming and diving, lacrosse, soccer, and cross-country. With the first coeducational class entering in fall 2018, male student-athletes joined the existing swimming and diving and cross-country teams, in addition to two new men's teams: soccer and basketball.

The upcoming planned expansion of the athletic facilities will allow the entire USJ community to benefit from safer and more functional playing fields, additional gym space for playing intramural sports, and expanded space for health and wellness services. All of these benefits spring from a goal integrated into the Saint Joseph education program nearly 90 years ago. 🏆

Bill Cardarelli: Forever a Blue Jay

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Bill Cardarelli, the first and only athletic director at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), will take on a new challenge after 26 years at the helm. Becoming the inaugural director of Internships and Sport Studies in the undergraduate Sport Management and Promotion program in the fall, Cardarelli leaves behind an athletic legacy replete with accolades and accomplishments.

He began at USJ when the athletic department and the O'Connell Athletic Center were barely beyond the groundbreaking, and remained as a four-sport, Division-III college grew into a thriving 13-sport coeducational university. In his role, Cardarelli has served not only as a leader, but as a mentor to many student-athletes – both past and present – who carry the lessons learned on campus into their professional lives.

"We've had very dedicated student-athletes," said Cardarelli. "So many of them have gone on to impact people's lives in positive ways, whether it's through careers in teaching, social work, or nursing. I am most proud of that."

Before coming to USJ, Cardarelli served as an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Connecticut (UConn), where he met basketball Hall of Famer and three-time National Champion Jim Calhoun. 20 years later, in the fall of 2018, Calhoun became the first men's basketball head coach in USJ history.

Among the many highlights of Cardarelli's extensive résumé is coaching the 1997-1998 women's basketball team to victory in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship – the first in USJ history. Today, he is a member of three Hall of Fame classes: the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame (2001), the New England Basketball Hall of Fame (2004), and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2017).



Pictured from left to right: Chris Silva '95, Coach Bill Cardarelli, Kris Allard Grover '95 and kneeling is Assistant Coach Debbie Baer Fiske (photo from 1993)

Longtime USJ Head Softball Coach Jim McKinnon, who has known Cardarelli for more than 15 years, said that Cardarelli has dedicated himself to the growth of USJ's athletic department throughout his tenure. Over the years, he has expanded the number of sports offered at the University, continuously developing programs based on the interests of an ever-evolving student body. However, while the sports may have changed, one thing never did: Cardarelli's ability to build relationships with student-athletes and make them feel right at home.

"He is someone you can talk to, and the players appreciate that," said McKinnon. "That's a very big thing for people coming into college."

In honor of his years as a coach, mentor, and athletic director, USJ will rename the Senior Scholar Athlete Award to the Cardarelli Scholar Athlete Award. Recognizing Cardarelli's tireless advocacy for women in sports, the award will be presented annually to a female student-athlete who is a graduating senior and has demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics.

While Cardarelli is leaving the athletics department, he will not be going far. When he moves to the other side of campus to join the department of Business Administration, he will teach courses and coordinate internships that provide students with the classroom and field experience they need for their careers. Though Cardarelli will no longer be on the field, through the Sport Management and Promotion program, he will continue to help USJ's students effectively channel their passion for sports and business into successful futures in a wide range of careers. 🏆

To learn more about donating to the Cardarelli Scholar Athlete Award, contact Tom Borjas, Institutional Advancement, at tborjas@usj.edu or 860.231.5898.

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Elizabeth Marone '15

From tutoring at the Center for Academic Excellence and career advising at the Career Development Center, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has faculty, staff, and resources in place to help students achieve their goals. The Center for Student Research and Creative Activity (SRCA) stands among them, aiming to offer students unique experiential learning experiences.

Led by Derek Dube, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology, the SRCA serves as a central hub for students interested in conducting research or pursuing creative activities under the guidance of faculty members. Over the past two years, Dube has debuted major enhancements to the Center that help USJ students find the opportunities that best suit them.

"We are always looking for ways to engage students," said Dube. "We want to continue to develop research across a variety of fields available to our students. We also aim to really provide what they are looking for and let them know what exists here at USJ."

For Victoria Maringola '19, a Biology major, USJ has been integral to determining her career path. As a sophomore, she developed her laboratory skills while working on lung cancer research with Chris Zito, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology. Simultaneously, she conducted her Honors research project with Dube, where she explored her interest in teaching science at the secondary level.

Now in her senior year, Maringola has continued her research in education with two projects under the guidance of Kirsten Martin, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology. With this work, Maringola became the

first undergraduate student to teach an undergraduate biology lab. In addition to honing her teaching skills in weekly labs, she is fine-tuning her abilities in curriculum design by developing an earth science course that Martin will teach at USJ in upcoming semesters. Through these diverse research experiences, Maringola feels prepared to pursue her master's degree in Education.

"It's beneficial to have all of this research now on my résumé and all of this learned knowledge," Maringola explained. "Saint Joe's gives you the opportunity to apply your passions and dedication to use for your future."

Chemistry major Anna Capparella '20 is following a similar path during her junior year. In January, she began a research project with Dube that focuses on the utilization of an underdeveloped means of detecting viruses: Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR). Under Dube's guidance, Capparella's research allows her to delve deeper into two interests: Biology and Chemistry. In addition to gaining experience in the lab,

she is further developing the interpersonal and communication skills that will benefit her as a pharmacist in the future.

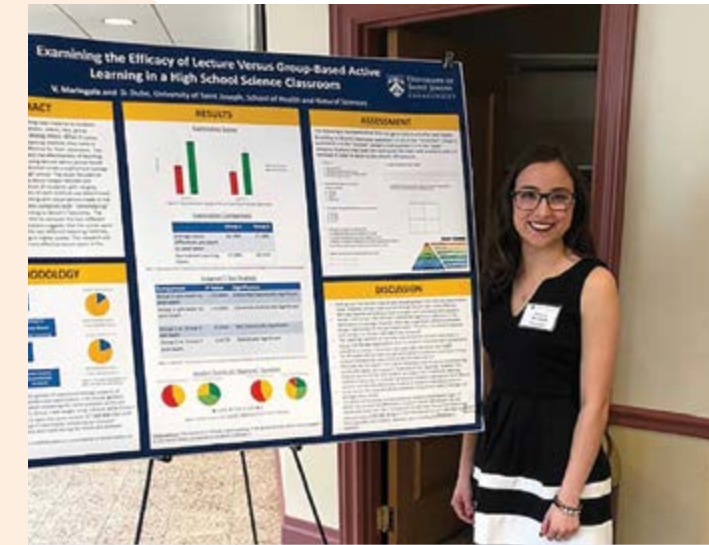
"I have gained a sense of independence, as well as finding a means of working both effectively and efficiently in the laboratory setting," Capparella said. "Being part of an undergraduate research project not only provides me useful tools as a student, but also provides many benefits for me as an individual, when thinking long term. This experience will continue to supply me with the skills and confidence to work independently in any setting."

Research experiences, while beneficial during students' undergraduate years, also prove critical to success at the graduate level. Danielle Tadych discovered this while completing her yearlong dietetic internship at USJ. Taking advantage of USJ's own SNAP-Ed program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education), Tadych has focused her research in that area. To gain field experience, she has shadowed nutrition educators, acquiring insight into the process of data collection and distribution of education in the community.

"The USJ SNAP-Ed program has impacted thousands of people in our surrounding community by providing a resource they can utilize to gain a better understanding of topics such as building strong bones and planning for the grocery store," she said. "It was rewarding to see the interactions between the educators and participants. As my research is specifically on knowledge retention and behavior change, it was nice to take a step back from the facts and look at the impact the program has on the community."

USJ's research projects are vital to student success, but the importance of classroom experiences cannot be overstated. By deepening their interests in particular fields of study, students also discover the ways in which they can use their knowledge and experience to help the community after graduation.

For Philip Bergen, MSPAS'20, the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program at USJ is doing just that. He recently received the National Health Service Corps Scholarship, awarded by the government, for students interested in working in underserved communities.



Victoria Maringola '19 at Symposium Day 2018

"I have a background in Spanish and would like to work in an area where people don't speak English or in the Latino community, where they may not have good access to health care," Bergen shared.

Previously a member of the Peace Corps, Bergen is no stranger to providing support in underserved communities. After graduating college, he traveled to the Dominican Republic, where he developed an interest in serving others. With the help of this scholarship and the education he's receiving at USJ, Bergen is strengthening the skills he will eventually utilize to help patients in all communities after graduation.

In these instances and numerous others, students benefit from USJ's commitment to providing them with the experiences they will need to confidently enter the workforce and make a positive impact in the world. 🌍

For more information about SRCA, go to www.usj.edu/srca

USJ ATHLETICS

FALL/WINTER WRAP-UP

CROSS COUNTRY

Competed in eight meets on the season under second-year head coach Stephen Allen. Senior Mia Tompkins (Meriden, Conn.) was named First Team All-GNAC after finishing seventh out of 89 female runners at the 2018 GNAC Championships with a 5K time of 20:48. First-year Eric Knox led the way on the men's side with a 48th place finish out of 85 runners at GNAC's after touring the 8K course with a time of 32:23. Tompkins and first-year Chamroen Chhorn (Danbury, Conn.) were tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Tompkins was also named GNAC Women's Runner of the Week this season, and for the second time in her career, following a ninth-place result at the Trinity College Bantam XC Invitational where she posted a 5K finish in 20:31.3.

MEN'S SOCCER

Finished its inaugural regular season under head coach Paul Wright with an overall record of 8-4-2 and a 5-4-2 mark in GNAC play, which was good for a sixth-place finish in the league's regular season standings and a postseason berth. Saw three players garner All-GNAC honors with first-year Daniel Castro (Willimantic, Conn.), first-year Hayden Burbank (Southington, Conn.), and first-year Domeniko Skrelja (Watertown, Conn.) on the All-GNAC Third Team. Sophomore Gaetano LaBella

was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. First-year Anes Gadun (Clinton, Conn.) earned the first-ever male GNAC of the Week nod in USJ history when he was tabbed Goalkeeper of the Week after posting 15 saves over two games in a week, while his classmate DeAnte Anderson (Bloomfield, Conn.) followed two weeks later and was honored as the GNAC Rookie of the Week.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Concluded the regular season with an overall record of 7-7-1 and a 5-6-1 mark in GNAC play under fourth-year head coach Kelly Shimmin. Qualified for the GNAC postseason tournament for the 19th consecutive season, earning the eighth seed, and took top-seeded Lasell into double-overtime in the GNAC Quarterfinals. Saw first-year Jenna Banta (Montville, Conn.) earn All-GNAC Second Team accolades as a first-year center back for the Blue Jays and senior Amanda Ghent (Portland, Conn.) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Junior goalkeeper Megan Ricci (Center Moriches, N.Y.) grabbed GNAC Goalkeeper of the Week honors after posting a pair of shutouts with 10 saves in the opening week of the 2018 campaign.

TENNIS

Recorded a 2-8 overall record and 1-6 record in GNAC competition during the regular season under third-year head coach Karen Piazza. Defeated intrastate and GNAC rival Albertus Magnus College, 7-2, on the road in their final conference match of the



season to pickup a big rivalry victory. Competed in a marquee event for the second-straight year at the 2018 Grass Courts Doubles Championships held at the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. Junior Domonique Carnot (Meriden, Conn.) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

VOLLEYBALL

Earned the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the third consecutive season and for the fifth time in the past six years in a vote amongst the 13 GNAC head coaches. Posted an overall record of 11-15 and 2-10 mark in GNAC action under eighth-year head coach Dejshona George. The 11-15 regular season record was a six-win improvement from the 2017 campaign, and they picked up clutch GNAC wins over Anna Maria and Regis (Mass.). First-year defensive specialist Nina Nevarez (New Milford, Conn.) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team for USJ.



SWIMMING & DIVING

Contested in 11 meets during the season, including seven dual meets where the women's team posted its best dual meet record in program history, finishing the season 5-2 under fifth-year head coach Brenda Straker. The women registered their best-ever finish at the GNAC Championships placing third with a program-high 356.5 points, while the men, in their inaugural season, finished sixth with 61 points. First-year Jacob Wyse (Broad Brook, Conn.) was tabbed All-GNAC across three individual events at the championships by finishing inside the top-three in the 200 Free, 200 IM, and 400 IM, including taking gold in the 200 IM (2:05.40). In a vote amongst the league's seven head coaches, Wyse was named the 2018-19 GNAC Men's Rookie of the Year, becoming the sixth student-athlete in USJ history to garner the honor. On the women's side, senior Annmarie Masayda (Watertown, Conn.) earned All-GNAC honors in a pair of events by finishing second



in the 50 Breaststroke and the 100 Breaststroke, while also sharing All-GNAC honors with teammates first-year McKenzie Stotler (New Hartford, Conn.), senior Gabriella Alberino (East Haven, Conn.), and first-year Alise Martel (Harwinton, Conn.) as members of USJ's third-place 200 Medley Relay team. First-year Brielle Bergeron (East Hampton, Mass.) and first-year Jack Monroe (Waterbury, Conn.) were selected to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Posted a 16-12 overall record and 5-6 mark in GNAC play in its inaugural season under first-year and Hall of Fame head coach Jim Calhoun. Earned the seven seed in the GNAC postseason tournament and became the first seven seed in GNAC history to advance to the GNAC championship game. First-year Delshawn Jackson Jr. (Hartford, Conn.) became the first student-athlete in USJ history to be named Regional Rookie of the Year after becoming the fifth student-athlete

in USJ history to earn GNAC Rookie of the Year honors. USJ picked up GNAC Rookie of the Week accolades 10 out of the 14 weeks of the season led by Jackson Jr. and first-year Chris Childs (Bronx, N.Y.) who each garnered the honor three times. First-year Jake Sullivan (Branford, Conn.) was tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. All of USJ's home games and the playoff run were aired on WTIC NewsTalk 1080, the 50,000-watt Hartford radio station, and voiced by Connecticut's premiere play-by-play announcer, Joe D'Ambrosio. The Blue Jays were also featured on national television twice with a piece on CBS This Morning and a four-part E:60 Original Series, The Calhoun Project, on ESPN.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Honored by the Great Northeast Athletic Conference with the GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the second time in the past four seasons and sophomore Raelynn Voislow (Windsor Locks, Conn.) was named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Under the direction of first-year head coach Wendy Davis, logged an overall record of 3-22. For the second consecutive season, placed runner-up in the 21st Annual USJ Tip-Off Tournament and first-year Cheyenne-Mone Smith (Wethersfield, Conn.) earned All-Tournament Team accolades averaging 14 points, five rebounds, and five steals in two games. Smith was also tabbed GNAC Rookie of the Week four times over the course of the season, the most out of any first-year across the league. Classmate Silvana Barcomb (Middletown, Conn.) also received GNAC Rookie of the Week recognition on the year as USJ captured the award five times over the final seven weeks of the season.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @USJ_BlueJays

CAMPUS SNAP SHOTS

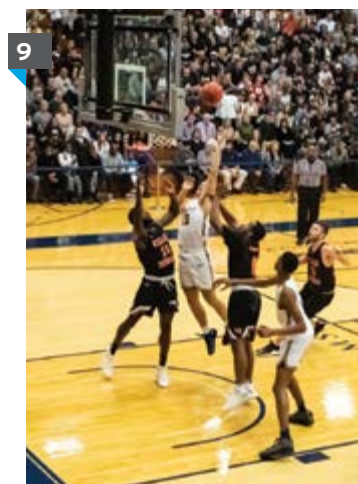
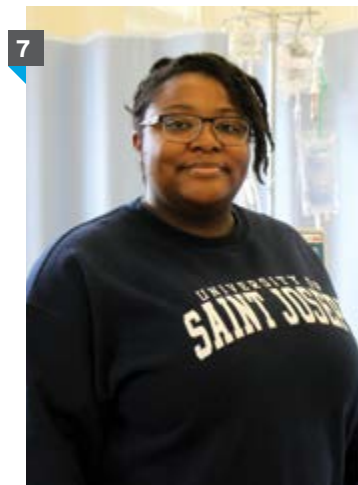
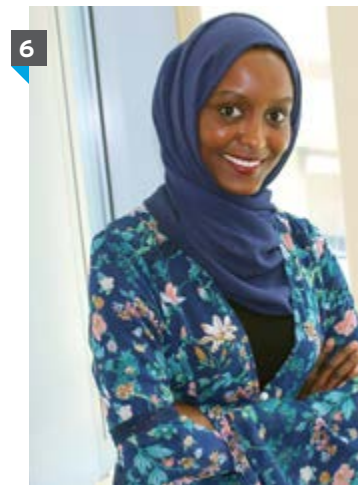


Photo 1: Peter Boardman, husband of President Rhona Free; Elaine Lowry Neubelt '48; Robert (Rob) Stingle, USJ Trustee; Sister Pat Rooney, RSM, '58, M'72, DAA'00, USJ Trustee; Beth Barton, USJ Board of Trustee Chair; and President Free are all smiles during halftime of the GNAC Men's Basketball Championship game at Albertus Magnus.

Photo 2: Jan. 2019, the University of Saint Joseph welcomed the Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2021.

Photo 3: Gabriella Alberino '19 helped the USJ women's swimming and diving team to its best finish in program history at the 2019 New England Intercollegiate Swimming & Diving Association Championships.

Photo 4: Since 1934, Investiture has marked a significant event in the life of a scholar. Here, the class of 2020 commemorated their advanced academic standing dressing in the scholar's garb for the first time. After processing to the Chapel in academic gowns, the junior class received their caps from faculty members.

Photo 5: Jan. 2019, President Free presented past Chairman of Corporate Giving Elizabeth Gustin Basil with a certificate of recognition for her professional accomplishments, commitment to the community, and contributions to the University of Saint Joseph's mission.

Photo 6: Pharm.D. candidate Fatima Shehu is the first exchange student from Gulf Medical University in the United Arab Emirates to study abroad at USJ. The two institutions are affiliates, both inviting students, faculty, and staff to participate in a variety of teaching, research, scholarship activities, and professional development.

Photo 7: The Northern Connecticut Black Nurses Association awarded Ciera Carter '19, a Nursing major with minors in Biology and Psychology, with a scholarship.

Photo 8: Nov. 2018, the University of Saint Joseph's department of Nursing held their annual Graduate Nursing Awards, Hooding, and Pinning Ceremony. This ceremony honored the graduates of the Psychiatric Mental Health master's degree and certificate programs, and the Family Nurse Practitioner graduates.

Photo 9: Nov. 2018, in front of a packed gym at Trinity College, the University of Saint Joseph men's basketball team played their first game, hosting William Patterson. Trailing in the second half, the Blue Jay's rallied under Head Coach Jim Calhoun to win 79-74.

Photo 10: Oct. 2018, Father Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., professor of Religious Studies and Theology, presented the 2018 Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Scholarship Award Lecture.

CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS



Photo 11: Nov. 2018, a variety of professionals spoke on the #MeToo movement that has grown in prominence throughout the past year. Hosted by USJ, the topic was “Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment in the Professional Workplace.”

Photo 12: Dec. 2018, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation announced that USJ is one of 52 providers from 27 states and Puerto Rico to receive accreditation for their educator preparation programs.

Photo 13: The National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter honored three individuals from the USJ community at their annual awards dinner: Nelly Rojas Schwan, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW, Annastacia Burns '19, and alumna Deborah Ingalls, LCSW. were honored at the annual awards dinner of the National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter.

Photo 14: USJ welcomed guest speaker Honey Reddi, Ph.D., FACMG, for the Women L.E.A.D. in S.T.E.A.M. Speaker Series. Dr. Reddi serves as the Clinical Laboratory Director at Jackson Laboratory in Farmington, Conn.

Photo 15: March 2019, Hartford Healthcare USJ Alumni came together from all areas of Hartford Hospital to join President Free and share how their USJ experiences helped shape their careers.

Photo 16: March 2019, Providing professional networking is a priority for the Alumni office. Third-year Pharmacy students on clinical rotation at Saint Francis Hospital joined President Free and USJ alumni to discuss career plans.

ALUMNI SUCCESS KATIE VANDRILLA '13

Helping Others Through Writing

By Elizabeth Marone '15

WHEN KATIE VANDRILLA '13, started at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), she was completing treatment for leukemia. A member of USJ's acting troupe Queenes Companye, her love of theater was only matched by her love of Chemistry, the subject she would eventually teach at Middletown High School.

While studying and acting at the University, Vandrilla was also hard at work on a passion project, inspired by her experiences at children's hospitals. While undergoing treatment in 2007, she felt inspired to write a story centered on the beloved stuffed animals that accompanied her and so many of her peers throughout their hospital stays.

“Almost every kid had a stuffed animal; they were used to explain procedures to kids so that they would know that if their bear or bunny could go through it, it wouldn't be as scary,” she said.

For Vandrilla, her bunny Thumper provided a comforting presence throughout the hardest days. Now, she hopes Thumper will bring comfort to others facing similar battles, through her debut children's book, “Thumper's Hospital Adventure.” Readers learn alongside Thumper as he discovers more about his friend's cancer and supports her as she undergoes treatment.

“I wondered what the animal would be dealing with when their friend is sick. I'm hoping the animal explaining and going through it will be a comfort to a kid who is either going to go through it or maybe knows someone who is,” Vandrilla explained.

After writing the story, she reached out to numerous agents around the world, eventually partnering with an independent publisher in Spain. This publisher connected Vandrilla to an illustrator who was willing to work free of charge, ensuring she could donate all of the book's proceeds to the Make-a-Wish® Foundation – a charity close to her heart.

At the end of her treatment, the Make-a-Wish® Foundation granted Vandrilla's lifelong wish to meet Johnny Depp, her favorite actor, on the set of his movie “Dark Shadows” in London.

“I met him after I was in remission, but I was still dealing with a lot of side effects. That was kind of the turning point: My side effects started getting better, even the ones the doctors said weren't going to get better. I had a whole new outlook after meeting him,” she remembered.

From the moment her wish was granted, Vandrilla knew she wanted to give back to the organization that provided this pivotal moment in her recovery. Now, when she's not teaching or working on new projects, she volunteers as a Wish



Granter, helping dreams come true for children facing critical illnesses.

“It's amazing to work with the kids, see the families at that hard time, and help them through, appreciating today because you don't know what tomorrow holds,” Vandrilla said.

Whether through her volunteerism or her writing, Vandrilla hopes to contribute positively to people's lives as they face their own battles. “To the kid who's dealing with cancer, either directly or indirectly, I want them to find comfort through Thumper's story,” she explained. “For everyone else, I want them to learn something about what other people go through with cancer.”

To purchase a copy of “Thumper's Hospital Adventure,” visit www.amazon.com. Vandrilla encourages all those interested to donate copies to children's hospitals, where children can find comfort in Thumper's journey.

Blue Jays Found Love in USJ's School Counseling Program

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.



When seeking graduate programs, one may look for expert faculty, an ideal location, and an engaging curriculum. For **DEANNA RONCAIOLI, M'16**, and **JAMES GORSS, M'17**, they found all that and, ultimately, love at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) while each earning their master's degree in School Counseling. As charming as this love story sounds, initially, it was not love at first sight.

"Everything changed when Professor Renee Sherrell paired us to work together for a whole semester," said Roncaioli. "We were in the same program together for two years and never interacted with each other."

At first, Roncaioli was uneasy about being partners with Gorss when he was nowhere to be found on the first day of class. Her feelings eventually

changed when she noticed that Gorss was initiating extra work sessions to make up for his absence.

"During our work sessions we started smiling and laughing more. I picked up that James was initiating extra sessions to get work done when the work had already been completed. So, I played along and that soon led to our first date," remarked Roncaioli.

Now engaged, Roncaioli and Gorss' wedding is scheduled for April 2020 at the Connor Chapel of Our Lady at USJ. Reverend Emmanuel Ihemedu, M.Div., Ph.D., chaplain and assistant professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies, will officiate. The couple expressed that they wanted to be married here since USJ holds a special place in their hearts.

The couple is also grateful for the flexibility of USJ's School Counseling program. They were able to receive their master's degrees within four years while attending part-time. Before that, Roncaioli graduated from Providence College with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Gorss graduated from Siena College with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Both graduated in 2011.

"We had no clue what we wanted to do with our lives when we completed our undergrad degrees. For School Counseling, our majors weren't

typical majors for this program. USJ offered the option to sit in a class before registering. Other programs don't offer that much flexibility," Gorss remarked.

Some of their favorite classes included Human Motivation and Change with Chair, Professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies, Richard (Rich) Halstead, Ph.D. and Implementation with Marte Ostvik-de Wilde, Ph.D., assistant Professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies. Both classes provided Roncaioli and Gorss with the skills needed in their field. Roncaioli is currently a school counselor at Francis T. Maloney High School in Meriden, Conn., where she enjoys guiding students on their journey into college. Gorss is also a school counselor at McDonough Middle School in Hartford, Conn. He values the face-to-face time and challenge of working with middle school students.

"I really liked USJ's program. It gives you a competitive advantage because some of these classes aren't offered at state schools. I felt prepared to begin my career and gained interviewing skills," said Roncaioli.

In the future, they plan to continue advancing their careers: Roncaioli would like to become a Director of Guidance and Gorss wants to become a college professor. Cheers to the happy couple! 🍀

Nutrition Graduate Becomes a Successful Dietitian and Award Recipient

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

LISA GARCIA, M'17, graduated from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 2017 with her master's degree in Nutrition. A Registered Dietitian, Garcia also fulfills the role of business owner at Food Coach LLC, where she helps clients address weight issues and, often, complex gut health issues.

With an expertise in food sensitivities, she wants her clients to be able to enjoy food. Before finding her passion in nutrition, Garcia previously worked in the corporate sector. She held positions as Senior Officer and Vice President at a bank that served three counties in New Hampshire. While most people would consider that a dream job, she wanted to do something different.

"I didn't see that I was helping make anyone's life better, aside from being able to direct charitable contributions to certain organizations. I really looked at it, and said, 'What am I doing with my life?' and decided to make some changes. While I make far less than I earned in the corporate world, it is so much more fulfilling and rewarding," Garcia remarked.

Garcia expressed how much she enjoyed USJ's online Nutrition program. She interacted with students and professors who had real-world clinical experience. One of her



favorite classes was called Psychology of Eating. Previously earning her bachelor's degree in European History in 1988 from the University of Rochester, she values her Liberal Arts degree because it taught her critical thinking skills and gave her perspective on people's lifestyles.

"Obesity and health care conditions related to obesity are multi-factorial. Oftentimes, people say, 'Oh, that person doesn't have any willpower,' and 'Why don't they just suck it up and cut their portions?' That is the furthest thing from the truth. So many of these people are trying, and they're facing biological, sociological, emotional, and physiological contributors to their health."

Last year, Garcia received the 2018 New Hampshire Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Emerging Dietetic Leader Award. This award

is given to recipients who have supported the promotion of optimal health and nutrition status of the public through leadership in legislation, research, education, management, and other areas related to the profession.

She's excited to see Food Coach LLC grow in the future. In addition to in-person consultations, Garcia has started telehealth sessions, using secure video conferencing to help people who can't come to her office.

Having transitioned from a corporate career into being a business owner in health care, how does Garcia assess her success? For her, the metrics are different. "Having people tell you each week, 'You changed my life; I'm living a better life because of you' is far better than the fanciest of offices and compensation package. There's just no comparison!" 🍀

REUNION2019

Reunion is a wonderful opportunity to revisit the splendor of your campus while also remaining close to the University we are growing into. We invite you to join your former classmates for a memorable day on Saturday, Sept. 21. Throughout the day's events, you'll get the chance to remember the enrichment of your coursework, reunite with friends – past and present – and connect with all that's new and exciting here on campus.

No matter the time or distance between visits, the ethos of USJ remains the same. Join us in celebrating the history of education, friendship, and growth that helped shape USJ alumni. You will have the opportunity to hear from President Free, revisit your favorite places on campus, reminisce with old friends, and learn about the exciting renovations to take place in the year ahead.

The spirit of Reunion comes to life through the vibrant group of volunteers who support us through their time and commitment each year. Please let us know if you would like to put your mark on Reunion planning. All are welcome!

If you have a recent change in address, please consider sharing your updated contact information to ensure your Reunion invitation makes its way to you. You can submit this information to Rachel Scully, Alumni Relations Coordinator, through the contact information below.

Visit www.usj.edu/reunion as well as our Facebook page (Facebook.com/USJAlumni), in the coming weeks for a schedule of events, a list of attendees, and registration information.

Questions? Please contact **Rachel Scully** at rscully@usj.edu or **860.231.5447**



ALUMNI NEWS

USJ has been on the move! The academic year began with a wonderful Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony, where we celebrated four honorees, followed by a terrific day for Reunion 2018, where more than 150 alumni and friends came back to campus. In October, alumni, friends, and students joined together to volunteer again for the Hartford Marathon. The Fairfield Club celebrated the Christmas season by continuing their traditions of buying and wrapping gifts for children in Appalachia and celebrating 12th Night – both of which have been enjoyed for over 50 years. To kick off the New Year, alumni traveled to Boston for a tour of the Museum of Fine Arts with Dorothy Bosch Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, M.Ed., professor of Fine Arts.

President Free has traveled extensively, meeting with alumni and friends in Mass., Washington, D.C., New York, and Fla. Many kept busy in the winter months by cheering on the women's and men's basketball teams and the swimming & diving teams. No matter the location, USJ alumni have been connected and celebrating their alma mater the last few months. We look forward to the coming months and hope to see you at one (or more) of the upcoming events!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commencement and Class of 1969's 50th Reunion Procession
 Monday, May 13

Pharmacy 5th Year Reunion at Hartford Yard Goats
 Saturday, May 18

Imagine...The Sky's the Limit Gala
 Friday, June 7

2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony
 Friday, September 20

2019 Reunion
 Saturday, September 21

EVENTS BEING PLANNED:

Alumni Night at the Hartford Yard Goats

Fairfield Club Kick-Off to Summer

Hartford Marathon Volunteering



ART MUSEUM UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH EXHIBITIONS

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

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Thursday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. | Sunday: 1 – 4 p.m. | **Admission:** FREE



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



«Material Pleasures: Still life from the permanent collection
Jun. 21 – Aug. 26, 2019



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
PRESENTS THE

2019 *Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner*



UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH
CONNECTICUT

Since 1974, the University of Saint Joseph Alumni Association has presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards annually. The committee, made up of alumni, embraces the following definition of the term distinguished alumni: individuals who, because of superior and extraordinary achievements, have brought credit to themselves and to the University.

Nominations for the 2019 ceremony are open until Wednesday, May 1. To read the criteria, or to nominate someone, visit us at www.usj.edu/DAA.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
Friday, Sept. 20, 2019

Join us to celebrate this year's honorees

Thank you to the following alumni for their dedication and commitment to the committee this year:

Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62, DAA'17

Rita Bayer '05 – Chair

Gail Bernaiche '89, M'09

Marie Benoit-Connors '83, DAA'18

Melanie Cecarelli '78, DAA'15

Dr. Lisa Kuntz '79

Susan Stearn Moore '65, DAA'16

Deirdre Constantindis Mulligan, M'02

Marcia Prenguber '75, DAA'16, ND

Briana Reney '14, M'15

Michelle O'Connell '04

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.

1947

Patricia Cummings Welch '47 is proud of her granddaughter, Shira Stein '19, who is completing her senior year in the USJ Nursing program.

1948

Poems of the late **Marion Hoyt Flanigan '48** are now available in the book "The Pale Cast of Thought."

1958

Louise Sidoli Naclerio '58 is the proud great-grandmother of a 3-year-old boy and a newborn baby boy, who was born in November 2018.

1959



Patricia Nolan Santelle '59 and **Patty Resony Baker '77** enjoyed getting together at the Cape Fear Seafood Company in Wilmington, N.C.

1960

Claire Schatzman Grady '60, who recently moved to Madison, Conn., has four married children and 11 grandchildren.

1961



Roselee Barbagallo Fanelli '61, M'66, DAA'11, and her husband Nick enjoyed a rainy Norfolk-Harwinton soccer game under the protection of their umbrella.

1962



Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62, DAA'17 and her grandchildren enjoyed a trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Fla. in February.

Jeanne Ricard '62 welcomed her great-granddaughter, Amelia Jeannine Richard, in July 2018.

1963



Angela Conochalla '63 and **Ruth Hallowell Bortolan '61, M'76**, (left to right), who was Angie's "big sister" during college, remain great friends. They adopted sibling Siamese cats and recently reminisced over an October '57 Hartford Courant edition, where Ruth and her mother, Anna Harrington Hallowell '36, were photographed for a feature story about Saint Joseph College.

1964

Eleanor Connelly Burke '64 won a Blue Ribbon at the Eastern States Exposition for her "Frida Kahlo Quilted Jacket."

1965



Margaret (Peggy) Grainger Herzlich '65 and **Barbara Kavanagh Haight '59, DAA'09**, enjoyed time with Diane Burgess, director of Leadership Gifts, in Charleston, S.C.



Adele Macknis Kasinskas '65 and her sister **Carol Macknis '68** (left to right) pose with the METiman® Simulation Manikin while touring USJ's Nursing Learning Center and Simulation lab with Director Megan Mooney, MSN, RN, CHSE.

Jean Chlupek Nolan '65 has been tutoring at Saint Bridget School in Manchester, Conn., since she retired in 2001.

Lucia Ciervo Weinryb '65 has been married to Ira Weinryb for 51 years. Together, they have two daughters, Rachel and Rose, and four grandchildren: Julia (17), Alyssa (14), Sofia (12), and Ryan (8).

1967

Mary Rose Glandorf Lawson '67 earned her Master of Social Work at UCONN in 1969, and has been in private practice with developmentally delayed, home health, and inpatient psychiatry ever since.

1969

Susan Lombardi Delvecchio '69, M'82, is proud of her grandson, who was recently accepted into the University of Saint Joseph Class of 2023.

1971



Kathie Wysocki Buchino '71 and former faculty member Mil Thompson enjoyed a day together in Louisville, Ky.

1972

Eileen Peschel Smith '72 has enjoyed a 46-year career as a teacher, vice principal, and principal. Today, she teaches in a Maryland middle school, lives with her husband of 37 years, Tom, and is the proud mother of three grown children.

1975

Lois Luddy '75, M'83, DAA'07, retired after 35 years of teaching in Hartford. She now enjoys consulting at Horizons in South Windham, where she helps to guide and plan for 18-21-year-old individuals with disabilities.

1978



Aelish Sullivan Clifford '78, Sharon Cummings Oeste '78, and Anne Marie D'Amato Mangan '78 met to reconnect and soak up the sun in Naples, Fla. this January.

1980

Ann Milner '80, M'87, retired from Hartford Public Schools after 35 years as a special education teacher and three additional years as a substitute. She now enjoys volunteering at her old elementary school, St. Patrick Cathedral School in Norwich, Conn.

1981



Francis Salone-Pelletier, M'81, mother of **Denise Salon Zalaski '85** and grandmother of **Audrey Ames '16**, enjoyed a day in Shallotte, N.C.

Since 1982, a group of Saint Joe's alums have gathered annually at the Old Corner in Naugatuck on Christmas Eve. Alums include: **Ann Marie Maniccia Burgess '81, Elizabeth McNiff Lynch '81, Diane Carlotto Mortiere '81, Deborah Dowling Mulhull '80, Donna Tata Logue '82, Mary Rose Palmese '82, Caroline Mortiere '13**, and future USJ graduate **Brendan Lynch '22**.



If there's one thing **MARY BATTISTON DICENSO '62** enjoys as much as her time at then Saint Joseph College, it's decorating for Christmas each year. From nativity scenes to decorative plates and lights, Mary envelopes her home in the joy and meaning of the season.

"I love Christmas: the birthday of Jesus, all of the colors, the warmth, and getting together with family. Over the years, I started decorating and, before you know it, it kind of blossomed," she said.

Now, Mary's children and grandchildren have grown to anticipate the yearly decorations, appreciating the old and scouring the collection for any new additions. As memories continue to grow each year, it's clear that Mary's cheer for the season reaches not only her family but her Glastonbury neighborhood as well.

1983

Pat Aidan Whittel '83, M'96, welcomed a new grandson, Oliver Andrew Tewskbury, on Jan. 10, 2019.

1984

Patricia Van Inwagen, M'84, recently retired after 20 years as a teacher and librarian in West Hartford Public Schools.

1985

Pamela Rich Mulhearn '85 and her husband moved back to the Hartford area after living on Cape Cod for 19 years and raising their three children. A Certified Professional Coach, she partners with midlife and empty nest women to repurpose themselves for their next chapter. She also founded speaking clubs for women, called Her Podium, where women have the opportunity to find their voice and polish their public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

1986



Patricia Gaimari Brennen '86 enjoyed a meal with Diane Burgess, USJ's Director of Leadership Giving at the Blue Ridge Grill in Atlanta, Ga.

1987

Maureen Odell Keeler '87, M'02, was recently promoted to Global Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Brammer Bio, a first-in-class manufacturer of viral vectors for cell and gene therapy.

1990



Mary Pringle Mitchel '90, M'94, DAA'12, enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Society at Treasure Coast.

1993

Martha-Rae Nelson '93 was recently recognized for 25 years of service to the Hartford Public Library. After rising through the ranks and serving in various capacities at the library, she currently works as the Senior Library Assistant for the Hartford History Center, where she is noted for being a welcoming presence to all.

1996

Isabel Pacheco Logan '96, DAA'13, MSW, Ed.D., received an award at Eastern Connecticut State

University's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award Reception in February.

1999

Karla Beeny '99 is the mother to three beautiful children: Natalie (13), Olivia (11), and RJ (5). Recently, she has returned to Berlin, Conn., where she is working in the medical field.

2013

Samantha Wasef '13, M'15, ran the Disney Princess 5k in February, part of the annual Princess Half Marathon Weekend at Walt Disney World.

2015

Friends Rachel McKenzie '15, M'18; Tiana Rookwood '15, M'18; and Nicole Battistone '15, M'18 graduated from the University of Saint Joseph on May 12, 2018 with master's degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Nicole Battistone '15, M'18, and **Ryan Dickens, M'18**, graduated from the University of Saint Joseph on May 12, 2018 with master's degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling, respectively. After a post-commencement Royal Caribbean cruise, the couple began their careers. Nicole is an IICAPS Clinician at Community Child Guidance Clinic and Ryan is a school counselor at Torrington High School.

THE USJ ANNUAL FUND

IN MEMORIAM

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

TERESA MOROCCO BARTON '47, M'71

JOAN BELLEFLEUR BROWN '53

ELAINE HART BURKE '52

ANTOINETTE GELSOMINO COIRO '62

BARBARA J. FANTONE, C'65

LORETTA BLAKE FISH '62

ESTHER G. GENDEL, M'68

LAUREN SAYADOFF GROMAK '77

MARION P. LILLIS, RSM, '74

MARY-GERTRUDE McDONOUGH '64

ELIZABETH ANN McNAMARA '67

BARBARA DANIELS McNULTY '56

FLORENCE BONSIGNORE MISSELWITZ '45

MARGARET NOLAN-THIBAUT '97

MURIEL FARRELL O'CONNOR '48

RUTH JOYNER O'NEILL, M'68

DEBORAH J. PANKONIN, M'03

FLORENCE KRISTOPIK PEASLEY '51

GRACE CUSANO SCHAEFER '59

MARGARET SLAIBY, C'76

JOANNE BAUR SMITH, M'99

DOROTHY JOAN CAMARRA STERPKA '58

HAROLD MARTIN SULLIVAN, M'79

JULIANNE BRENNAN SULLIVAN '54, P'77, P'79

MARY FITZPATRICK TUCKER '45, M'69, C'78

YVONNE VAN BUSKIRK WRIGHT, M'78

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.



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With your help, we provide students the opportunity to practice the leadership skills they learn on campus. They build houses, volunteer at soup kitchens, and develop a sense of responsibility for the needs of society. From Alternative Spring Break trips around the country to campus-wide food and diaper drives, your gift ensures that our efforts make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

With your help, we foster a learning environment based in inclusivity, accessibility, and compassion for others. We instill within our students the importance of learning inside and outside the classroom, and our community service opportunities are an integral way to gain hands-on experience.

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Black Tie Optional

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