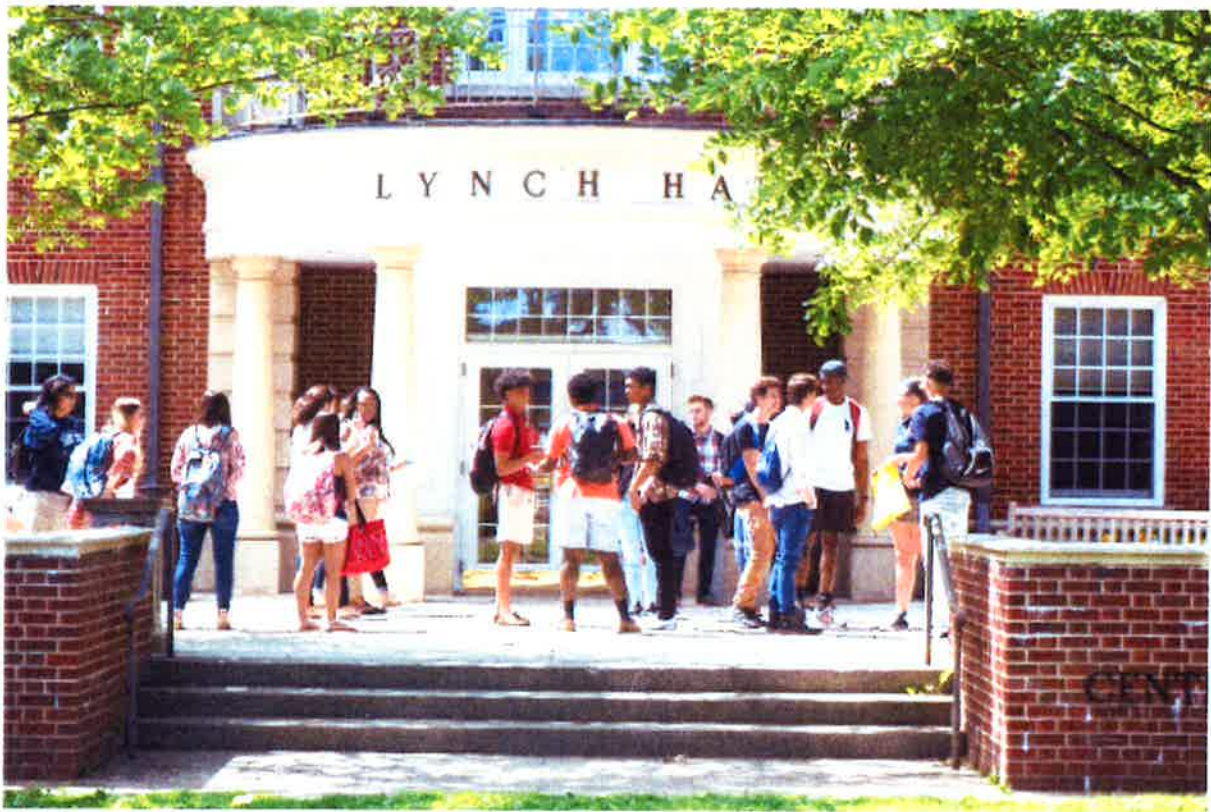




UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH
CONNECTICUT

Alumni Newsletter

May 2019



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School of Pharmacy Class of '14 Reunion Limited Time Offer on Reduced Ticket Price

Calling all School of Pharmacy Class of '14 Alumni! We hope you will join us on Saturday, May 18 at Dunkin' Donuts Park in our reserved luxury suite for a pre-game reception and Yard Goats game. You will be joined by President Rhona C. Free and your fellow classmates to catch up and celebrate this exciting milestone as the inaugural graduating class.

The first 10 alumni to register can do so for a reduced price of \$40 per ticket. In order to take advantage of this discount, you must contact **Rachel Scully**, in the Office of Institutional Advancement, at **860.231.5447** to place your order over the phone.

We hope to see you on the 18th!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT US



Trivia Corner

In what year did Rosary and McAuley Halls open for resident students?

Email your response to alumni@usj.edu.

April's Question

A gift from the Class of 1947, what types of trees were planted along the service drive into the USJ campus?

April's Answer

Maple Trees

April's Winner

No Correct April Answers.
Try again in May!





The MetroHartford Alliance "Pulse of the Region" Radio Show Features Melanie Sinche, Director, Career Development Center and Executive Director, Women's Leadership Center

On a recent episode of the Alliance's "Pulse of the Region" radio show, Melanie Sinche, M.Ed., M.A., Executive Director of the Women's Leadership Center, was joined by Courtney Jinjiika, Senior VP and Regional Retail Leader for CT/MA at KeyBank. The topic of discussion was "The Key to Empowering Women" in which they shared insightful data and talked about barriers, overcoming challenges, and details about KeyBank's Key4Women program. Click below to hear more.

[Listen here](#)



CT Commissioner of Education Dianna Wentzell Joins USJ as Director of Clinical Education

In recognition of the importance of integrated clinical experience during teacher preparation programs, the University of Saint Joseph is proud to welcome

Connecticut's Commissioner of Education Dianna Wentzell, Ed.D., as Interim Director of Clinical Education, starting summer 2019.

"Our teachers are our heroes," 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."

Wentzell brings more than 30 years of classroom teaching experience and administrative leadership achievements to the

Upcoming Events

Gengras Center Plant Sale

Thursday, May 9
and Friday, May 10

8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Gengras Center Lobby

Commencement

Monday, May 13

6 - 8:30 p.m.

XL Center

Hartford, Conn.

[Click here](#) for more information

School of Pharmacy Class of '14 Reunion

Saturday, May 18

5 - 10 p.m.

Dunkin' Donuts Park

[Click here](#) for more information

Save the Date

The Fairfield Club Summer Kickoff Luncheon

All alumni are welcome!

Saturday, June 22

University. In her current role with the Connecticut Department of Education, she has focused on statewide reduction of the Achievement Gap, an increase in the racial and ethnic diversity of the educator workforce, and the implementation of more rigorous standards and assessments.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Wentzell to USJ this summer. Her expertise is an exceptional addition to our outstanding faculty and staff, while her extensive experience, successful track record, and her local and national professional relationships will benefit our students and alumni," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.

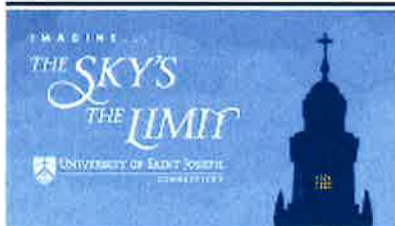


USJ President Rhona Free Featured in Today's American Catholic

President Free recently sat down for an interview with *Today's American Catholic*. In the feature article, written by Jane M. Bailey, President Free shares how the University's Core Values, as well as the tradition set forth by the Sisters of Mercy, remain central to the USJ student experience.

To read the feature, click below.

[Read more](#)



Register for Gala 2019

Join us in celebrating the vision and values of the University of Saint Joseph at this year's *Imagine...The Sky's the Limit* Gala on **Friday, June 7, 2019 at 6 p.m.** at the Connecticut Convention Center.

Register today for a night of dinner, dancing, and an exclusive silent auction. For more information about the Gala and

1 p.m.

The Stone's Throw

Seymour, Conn.

To register, [click here](#).



Volunteers needed!

Are you interested in being a career exploration volunteer? Help USJ students prepare for the workforce, build resumes, and learn networking tips. We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Katie DaSilva Burke at kdasilva@usj.edu or 860.231.5364.



USJ Athletics

Best of luck to the USJ Softball team as they play Emmanuel in the GNAC Tournament Semifinals at 10 a.m. at Simmons University.

sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Cristina Southward** at **860.231.5291** or gala@usj.edu.

Register



Brianna (Bri) Reney '14, M'15

Meet Alumni Council Secretary Brianna Reney '14, M'15

Brianna (Bri) Reney joined the Alumni Council in 2014 immediately following her graduation, as the Chair of the Outreach and Engagement Committee. She was then elected to Secretary in 2016. A dedicated alumna, Bri also served on the Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee in 2017 and 2018. Having received her bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2014, she went on to receive her MSW

in 2015. Bri now works as a School Social Worker with the Southington Public School System.

Looking back at her USJ experience, Bri recalled, "One of my fondest memories was our Senior Week. Every night we had a different event planned for the graduating seniors. It was a great way to end the semester and celebrate our journey to graduation!" From bachelor's degree to master's degree to active alumna, what inspires Bri's continued connection to the University? "I am motivated to continue my involvement with USJ because attending Saint Joe's was the best choice I have ever made. I enjoyed every minute of it and learned so much. I am motivated to help provide that same experience to current students now," shared Bri.

We asked Bri what she thought about the changes being made to the USJ campus in the year ahead. "I am excited to see the changes across campus. Programs are growing, buildings are being renovated, and the student population is changing. I look forward to watching USJ continue to grow," stated Bri.

Just as alumni like Bri will continue to watch USJ grow, we love checking back in on how our dedicated alumni grow in their own paths. "The experience and networking I was exposed to with the USJ Social Work Program has helped me to be successful in my career. I was more than prepared to jump into the field once I graduated. The various events and programs offered at USJ helped me grow as a professional and prepared me to enter the workforce," said Bri.

In her spare time, Bri loves being active outdoors!



2019 Symposium Day Recap

USJ held its annual Symposium Day on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, offering the campus community the opportunity to immerse themselves in the exemplary work conducted by students on and off campus this year.

Once again organized by Marte Ostvik-De Wilde, Ph.D., assistant professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies, and Irene Guttilla Reed, Ph.D., associate professor of Biology, Symposium Day consisted of presentations from more than 75 students across the University's three academic schools.

"It was a great day to see students and faculty working together to showcase research. It shows the spirit of the campus and how everyone cares about their disciplines and specialties and wants to share it with others. We had a great showing of students, staff, Board of Trustee members, administration, and faculty," said Dr. Ostvik-De Wilde.

[Read more](#)

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