Greetings from the University of Saint Joseph

The transition to 'back-to-school' mode is exciting, whether it's the first day of Kindergarten, the first year of college, or senior year, eyeing the prize of graduation in the spring. We can all get excited about the start of a new year to learn more, meet and reunite with friends and faculty, and be involved with student athletics and activities on campus. USJ staff and faculty have been preparing all summer long for the start of this semester with renovations to the residence halls, infrastructure upgrades, O'Connell Athletic Center improvements, and updates to our programs.

We will be welcoming all students with new opportunities across campus that offer ways for them to learn more and prepare for their future careers or graduate studies – from access to academic services (everyone can benefit from free homework help!) and career counseling with internship placements, to new student activities on campus. An added benefit for full-time undergraduate students – at no cost – is our UPASS transportation plan; read more about it below. With almost 40% of our incoming first-year class slated to be student-athletes, we expect to see many of you on campus for their games and meets, so be sure you check out our updated Campus Map.

News from Campus

The state of Connecticut launched UPASS for full-time undergraduate students in the state university system to encourage use of the public transportation system. Without increasing our student activity fee, President Free worked with the state to obtain UPASS access for USJ students (the first private college in the state to do so) and negotiated for longer hours on bus route #72 with stops on Asylum Avenue in front of campus. Full-time undergraduate students will be receiving their UPASS during Week of Welcome or the first week of class. More information about UPASS is also available to students on MyUSJ.

We hope to see you and your family at the Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at the University of Saint Joseph, voted #1 Best University/College Arts Venue in CT NOW’s Best of Hartford Readers’ Poll. Please join us for our upcoming season, USJ Got Soul, bringing you ‘all the feels’ this year as we draw inspiration from dance, music, theater, film, and poetry. Each one of our eclectic and electrifying productions will provide deep connections to artists who share experiences, traditions, stories, and meaning through exciting performances.

One new space on campus that will be a popular meeting spot for your student is the new Collaboration Lab in the Pope Pius XII Library. This room, designed for student workshops and presentations, features 55” LED display screens and other workspace equipment and resources.

Before the fall semester begins, let’s give one more round of applause to the USJ undergraduate students who earned a place on the spring semester Dean’s List.
Does your student have health insurance? If yes, complete and submit the annual USJ health insurance waiver today. **The final waiver deadline is Sept. 15, 2018.**

All full-time undergraduate and School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies students will have a charge on their USJ student account for the annual student insurance premium (rates below). **Students who are currently enrolled in a comparable plan may decline by performing the annual online waiver here.** Please be advised that the credit will not post to your account on a real-time basis. However, the earlier you perform the waiver, the earlier a credit will appear on your account. If you do not qualify for or complete a waiver by the deadline, you will be enrolled in the plan and assessed the fee.

**Annual Fees**
Undergraduate Insurance Fee: $2161.00
Graduate (SOP/PA/Resident/International) Insurance Fee: $3204.00

For those who will be enrolling, find plan materials posted at the [Gallagher website](#). If you plan to enroll, please contact: HealthServices@usj.edu.

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Our events calendar can keep you up-to-date with activities all year long, while our [academic calendar](#) can be used as a reference for important deadlines, including:

- Students are reminded to submit any official transcript for approved courses taken outside USJ to the Registrar’s Office as soon as the grade is assigned.
- Undergraduate students with more than 84 earned credits (senior standing) are reminded to contact the Registrar’s Office at 860-231-5225 to complete a degree audit and graduation application this fall.

**Fall 2018: Important Dates**

- **Convocation**, when we welcome all students to the start of the new academic year, is scheduled for Thursday, August 30 beginning at 3 p.m. in The Connor Chapel of Our Lady followed by an ice cream social on the Quad. Families are invited!
- **Add/drop deadline**: The deadline to be able to add or drop a course varies by course. Students who may want to change courses, should carefully check the deadline for each course and contact the Office of the Registrar with any questions on 860.231.5225 or registrar@usj.edu.
- **CT Gubernatorial Debate** on September 5, hosted by the CT Conference of Independent Colleges and broadcast 6-7 p.m. on Fox61, live from USJ. Featured topic: CT economy.
- **The Rev. James Martin, S.J. will present the 2018 Buckley Lecture** on September 6 at 7 p.m. in the Bruyette Athenaeum, Hoffman Auditorium. He is a Jesuit priest, author, and editor-at-large at *America Magazine*. He will be speaking on his latest book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter Into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity.*
- **Got GRIT?** Join us on September 26 for a [Women’s Leadership Center (WLC)](#) conference featuring an interactive panel of women leaders and a screening of a TED talk by Angela Duckworth, author of GRIT. Check our WLC webpage for more information.
- **The Arts** are a fundamental part of the USJ community and education experience. *Guitar Under the Stars* is a large-scale outdoor concert starring acclaimed guitarist, Daniel Salazar. Join us beginning at 4 p.m. on USJ’s outdoor quad for pre-festival activities, concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 8. You are also welcome to the next Art Museum’s exhibition, *In Memoriam: Commemorative Art by Contemporary Artists*, Thursday, September 13, 5-7:30 p.m.