

USJ Parents' Connection



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Greetings from the University of Saint Joseph

While it seems as if students just left classes for summer break, we are already busy preparing for the fall semester: building a temporary Dining Hall Commons while McGovern Hall, our Student Center, is renovated; offering an [online bookstore](#); preparing for new faculty and majors, including Digital Media and Communication; and installing a new turf field for all of our athletic teams – all services designed with the evolving needs and interests of students in mind. While you enjoy time with your student over the summer, please ask about the news stories below. We are excited to see your student for the fall semester or as a new alum at the 2019 Reunion.

News from Campus



USJ's 84th [commencement ceremony](#) celebrated all graduating students, along with their family and friends. President Free remarked, "Like the degrees earned by all of the students graduating from colleges and universities this May, yours signifies that you have developed skills and gained knowledge, that you are smart and self-motivated, that you possess creativity and persistence. But as a graduate of the University of Saint Joseph, your degree conveys even more. A USJ degree is imbued with our Core Values and the "critical concerns" that are the focal points for the Sisters of Mercy."



[Congratulations to the USJ 2019 undergraduate award recipients.](#) "The USJ community came together, once again, to shine a light on our hardworking, dedicated students and their accomplishments. Whether through academics, community service, athletics, or leadership, these students have contributed to the University in outstanding and meaningful ways. I look forward to seeing what each and every one of them will achieve as they enter the workforce or continue their education in a graduate program," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.



[Annual Symposium Day](#) shines a spotlight on USJ faculty-student research. 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 from across the University. "It was a great day to see students and faculty working together to showcase research. We had a great showing of students, staff, Board of Trustee members, administration, and faculty," said Dr. Ostvik-de Wilde.



A night to remember, [USJ's Softball Team wins 2019 GNAC Championship.](#) USJ Blue Jays won four-straight playoff games to become the 2019 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Champions. This was the first shutout in the GNAC Championship game since 2013 and USJ's third GNAC Championship in school history (women's basketball 1997-98, softball 2000) and the second for softball.

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USJ Invests in Facilities and Campus for Students

From May 2019 - September 2020, the University of Saint Joseph is using a combination of grants, donations, and capital funds to invest approximately \$30 million in renovations on campus. Our goal is to create a more vibrant and engaging campus life with learning opportunities and academic and health and wellness programs with services and facilities that meet the diverse needs of the University's students today and well into the future.

Improvements have begun and include:

- Replacing the current athletic field next to the O'Connell Athletic Center with a turf field that will be ready for student-athletes beginning fall 2019
- Renovating the interior of the first floor of McGovern Hall to create a modern and welcoming student center that will be home to a food-court style dining hall, expanded student activities' lounge, student club space, a convenient school store, and a new snack bar
- Improving access to the Student Affairs offices on the second floor with an elevator and all new doors for easier access and operation
- Relocating Campus Safety to an area in McDonough Hall with increased space and updated technology

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:

- Summer Session II registration is open. Classes begin on Monday, July 9. Last day to enroll: Friday, July 13. Enroll at: <https://my.usj.edu/ics/>
- 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.
- Returning undergraduate students not yet registered for the fall 2019 semester are encouraged to contact Carolyn Rock at crock@usj.edu for advising assistance.
- [The Office of the Bursar](#) is ready to help students understand options for paying their bill. Fall 2019 bills will be posted, with payment plan options, to students' MyUSJ account in July.
- Fall 2019 bills should be paid no later than Aug. 1, 2019.

Fall 2019: Updates

- [USJ's online bookstore](#) is now available. While McGovern Hall is being renovated, we will have a small store in McDonough Hall available to students and visitors.
- Most returning students move into the residence halls on Aug. 25, 2019; student-athletes and student leaders may move in on different schedules. Please contact housing@usj.edu if you have any questions about your student's move-in date.
- Fall 2019 classes begin on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

All USJ students, family, and campus visitors may opt-in to the USJ Alert System to receive emergency and weather delay/closing text notices instantly. If you haven't done so already, it's easy to [sign-up](#). Our emergency alert system will send text notices instantly and simultaneously to all registered users via your mobile/cell phones and preferred email accounts.