



ALUMNI UPDATE

October 2018

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT





Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony

An Inspirational Evening

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 14 members of the extended USJ community gathered to recognize four amazing individuals who have shared their time and talent with their communities and beyond. Marie Benoit-Connors '83, Paula Ballantyne DeSilva '68, Ph.D., Dayne Laskey, Pharm.D., DABAT, and Sherry Stearley Neuner '73 were each honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA). The celebration was held in the Hoffman Auditorium in the Bruyette Athenaeum. The audience was treated to a heartfelt video compilation of each recipient's accomplishments. The video was filmed and created by Jennifer Blessing Miceli '99, '00 and Michael Miceli of Miceli Productions. The program continued with the presentation of the awards to each recipient and remarks from each. Guests gathered in the Coleman Lobby afterward for a beautiful reception. Photos can be viewed on the USJ Alumni [Facebook Page](#).

Each year, the DAA committee seeks nominations for award recipients who have accomplished superior and extraordinary achievements and have brought credit to themselves and to the University of Saint Joseph. Nominations for 2019 will open in January of 2019. For more information, email [Katie DaSilva Burke](#) '15, M'17, Director of Alumni Relations, or call her at 860.231.5364.

[EVENTS](#)

[ATHLETICS](#)

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[REUNION](#)

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Reunion 2018

A Heartfelt Day on Campus

On Saturday, Sept. 15, over 200 alumni gathered to celebrate reunion. All classes were celebrated, with special emphasis on those ending in a 3 or 8. Guests enjoyed a day full of conversation, laughter, and reminiscing. Reunion began with registration and breakfast. Following breakfast, attendees had the opportunity to hear Professor Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, H'17, M.Ed., present, "*Inspirational American Painters at Home and Abroad.*" From there, guests celebrated student community engagement by listening to students and alumni speak of their



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personal service learning experiences. The panel discussion was moderated by Sr. Beth Fisher '76, DAA'13, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Community Engagement.

The classes marched with Joey the Blue Jay in a festive parade across campus and sat down to a wonderful luncheon in the beautifully transformed McGovern Cafe. After the alumni Annual Meeting and an address by President Rhona Free, Ph.D., guests shared a meal and conversation. The afternoon presented opportunities to gather as a class, have a class photo, meet with members of the faculty and staff, enjoy a book discussion, and much more. The day was capped with an insightful reflection at Mass delivered by Reverend Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D., professor of Theology and Religious Studies.

Alumni and other friends were invited to attend the President's Reception held in the Crystal Room, where President Free unveiled portraits of Mary Payton Ryan, RSM, Ph.D., president from 1984-1991, and Winifred E. Coleman, D.H.L., President from 1991-2004. The portraits are now hung in the hallway outside the President's office in Mercy Hall.

Guests wishing to attend the Brubeck Brothers concert did so at the Hoffman Auditorium, hosted by the Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Photos from the day can be found on the [USJ Website Alumni Page](#). Additional photos have been posted to the [Alumni Facebook Page](#).

We hope all of our guests enjoyed the day. We make every effort to make your visit to campus enjoyable and we value your opinion. If you attended, complete the post reunion [survey](#) today.

The day was full of excitement, enthusiasm, and connections. Don't wait five years for your next visit; consider becoming a member of the 2019 reunion committee! Email the [Office of Alumni Relations](#) today or call Tonja Russo at 860.231.5447.

Thank You!

"The heart that gives, gathers."

Thank you so much for the 43 pounds of food that was donated at Reunion for the Hands on Hartford food pantry. Your generosity helped to restock the shelves and make life a little easier for many individuals and families!

Blessings in Mercy,

Trivia Question

The shield that represents the University of Saint Joseph was modified from its original form. One item was replaced on the original shield with a new item, making the shield unique to the University. What are the two items?



Ann Anastasio Schroeder '71

The O'Connell Athletic Center was constructed and dedicated in 1993. It houses a gymnasium with a capacity to seat 400 guests. Plans are being made to break ground on an addition that will have a capacity to serve as many as four times the current seating capacity.

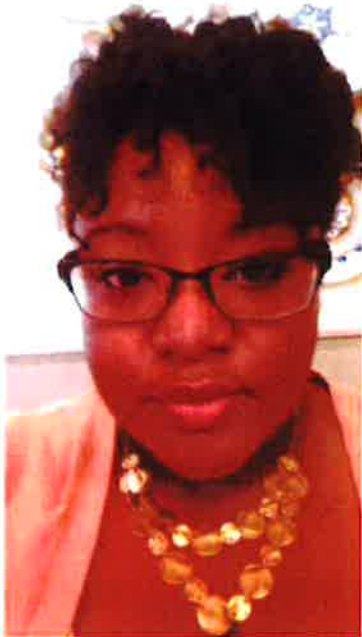
The winner of the September trivia question was: Ann Anastasio Schroeder '71

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Oct. 11 &
Sunday, Nov. 4**

7 p.m.

Uccello Fine Art Lecture



Good Luck Ciera Carter '19!

Ciera Carter, of Windsor, Conn. is a senior at University of Saint Joseph. She will graduate in the spring of 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. After graduation, her short term goal is to work locally to build her clinical experience with an eye on pursuing her dreams to travel. Ciera is no stranger to traveling and has always had a keen interest in global and international programs. During her middle and high school years she attended the Capitol Region Education Council's Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC),

whose mission is to develop open-minded, inquiring, empowered, and world changing individuals; a perfect fit for Ciera's career aspirations which is to become a traveling nurse. She has traveled to Albania and South Africa with the latter being her most memorable. Her trip to South Africa allowed her to become fully immersed into the culture. She shared that her travel there afforded her a truly authentic appreciation for the beauty of the people, culture, and landscape are.

The summer before her senior year in high school was a turning point for Ciera. Her guidance counselor, USJ alumna, Antonella Maccarone '98, M'11, suggested that she attend a summer program hosted by the University of Saint Joseph. Her relationship with her guidance counselor, coupled with the admissions staff at USJ, helped her to identify and pursue her dreams of attending USJ and becoming a nurse.

A self-professed "rusty" flute player, Ciera fills her down time with card making, cooking, and writing poetry, to name a few hobbies. But that's not all, she serves as a nursing mentor to underclassman through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program. She works as a University Phonathon caller in a student supervisory capacity, supports Goodwill, and has been a member of the Student Abolitionists Stopping Modern Day Slavery Club. In a recent conversation, Ciera shared that she enjoys her interactions with alumni, particularly nursing graduates. Realizing the wealth of knowledge of those who graduated before her, Ciera uses every opportunity to engage alumni, asking for guidance and

Monuments and Memorials

Bruyette Athenaeum,
Hoffman Auditorium

Nicole Eaton, Ph.D., adjunct professor in the department of history at Simmons College, will deliver the first of two Vincenza Uccello '56 Fine Art Lectures. The second lecture will be delivered by Erika Doss, Ph.D., professor of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

For more information, email [Rochelle Oakley](mailto:Rochelle.Oakley@simmons.edu), Collections Manager, or call 860.231.5743.

Thursday, Oct. 11

7:30 p.m.

The Art of the Duo

The Connor Chapel of Our Lady

Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and Sri Lankan born Canadian pianist, Dinuk Wijeratne will perform. Call the Frances Drisoll Box Office at 860.231.5555 to purchase tickets. Learn more about other Autorino Center for Performing Arts and Humanities events [here](#).

Saturday, Oct. 27

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Undergraduate Open House

seeking professional advice. Ciera believes that building rapport with alumni translates to her ability to develop therapeutic relationships with her patients: communication, listening, compassion are all skills that she has been able to develop through her Phonathon experience.

Ciera is eager to expand her knowledgebase through academic rigor, engagement with alumni, and enhanced global perspective through travel. "I am thankful that I have had opportunities to travel," she shared. "I believe it widened my perspective of the world and understanding of others which will help with my career as a nurse. Cultural competence is an essential factor in nurses providing quality healthcare."

Ciera is positioned for success. She was recently selected as a recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the Northern Connecticut Black Nurses Association. The mission of NCBNA is to provide a forum to facilitate the collective action by Black nurses to advocate for, and educate about the healthcare needs of under-represented populations, and to implement strategies that reduce health disparities and inequities. Upholding the mission of the NCBNA combined with her experiences will compound her ability to be mindful and responsive to cultural differences and enhance her ability to empathize, communicate, and collaborate with a diverse patient population. The Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations wishes our own Ciera Carter much success as she completes her senior year!



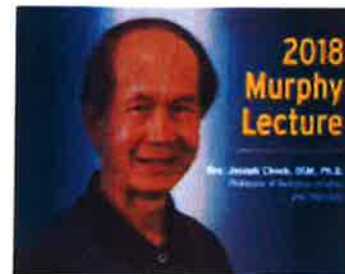
Join us as Blue Jays Basketball open the
2018-19 season!

University of Saint Joseph Campus

Do you have a daughter or son who is currently exploring their options for college?

Experience the USJ difference at an upcoming open house. Your student will have the opportunity to tour our beautiful campus, learn more about our programs and discover firsthand what makes our University so unique.

[Register](#) today or call the Office of Admissions at 860.231.5216.



2018 Murphy Lecture

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018

7 p.m.

Bruyette Athenaeum,
Hoffman Auditorium

**"Haunted House:
Skeletons of a Racist Past,
and Their Influences on
U.S. Buddhism."**

Reverend Joseph Cheah,
OSM, Ph.D., professor of
Religious Studies and
Theology will lecture as the
2018 recipient of the Sr.

Friday, November 9

Men's Basketball vs William Paterson University

7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Ferris Athletic Center, Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Tickets are \$10.

Buy tickets [here](#).

Saturday, November 10

Women's Basketball versus Mount St. Mary College

1 p.m.

The O'Connell Center, University of Saint Joseph

Any questions or for more information, please email [Josh Ingham](#) in the Sports Information Office or call him at 860.231.5296.

Fans can also download the [USJ Front Row Mobile App](#) and subscribe to our [Newsletter](#) and [Text Alerts](#).

#GoBlueJays #WinTheDay

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ATTENTION ALUMNI

Join us for Alumni Day!

Saturday, December 1

1 p.m.

Men's Basketball versus Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

3:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball versus Suffolk University

O'Connell Center, University of Saint Joseph

Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Research Award.

The faculty scholarship award, named for Mary Ellen Murphy, RSM, '50, H'12, Ph.D., honors a faculty member with a record of exceptional research and creative work. Sister Mary Ellen, a professor of Chemistry and a trustee of the University, held two patents, authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts, and presented her work nationally and internationally. She was also one of the first women to analyze the moon rocks when the Apollo 11 mission concluded in 1969. In addition, she served as a consultant for NASA and on NASA's Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous team.

Day of the Dead Altar

Thursday - Sunday

Nov. 1 - 4

**Bruyette Athenaeum,
Second Floor Reception
Room**

This is a community project led by artist Yolanda Vasquez Petrocelli.

Join us in creating elements for a community altar to memorialize family and friends. Participate in FREE workshops for families, students, and the community.

The workshops are for groups of all ages and backgrounds. Participants are asked to bring one or more photos of loved ones they

Purchase your tickets HERE before October 12!

\$10 (limit 4 tickets)

There are a limited number of tickets available.

Tickets for this game go on sale to the general public on October 15.

Email Tonja Russo with questions or call her at 860.231.5447.



Student Speaker Series

Please join the USJ community as we welcome former Connecticut U.S. Attorneys Deirdre Daly and Kevin O'Connor to campus. These speakers will discuss the Special Counsel investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and related matters. The director of the program in Criminal and Restorative Justice at USJ, Nikos Valance, will moderate the discussion.

Monday, Oct. 15, 2018

6:30-9 p.m.

Mercy Hall, Crystal Room

The forum is free and open to the public, but please register [here](#).

wish to remember, copies of which will be made for the altar. Other projects will include decorating the altar with flowers, candles, skulls, and making papel picado.

For additional information or to register a group of eight or more, please contact Rochelle Oakley at 860.231.5743 or roakley@usj.edu.



16th Annual 5x5 Contemporary Dance Festival

The 16th Annual 5x5 Contemporary Dance Festival will be held on campus in the Bruyette Athenaeum throughout the day on Saturday, Nov. 3. This dance festival brings together choreographers, performers, educators, students, and dance-lovers to study, perform, and create new work. There will be dance workshops throughout the day, with a showcase performance at the end.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 12:30 p.m. - Workshop

A master class taught by Aguibou Bougobali Sanou will focus on deconstruction and reconstruction of traditional African steps by playing with rhythm and space.

Humans of the University of Saint Joseph

This year's Common Read, *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet, tells the story of Lizet, a Cuban-American first-generation college student as she leaves her home in Miami for a college in the north. She feels at home nowhere and particularly at sea as a first-generation college student, struggling to understand how college itself works as well as her place within it.

We'd love to hear from USJ community members who might identify with Lizet's story. To submit "your story" complete the [Humans of USJ information form](#) and submit it to [Kaitlin Walsh](#), Instructional Designer, Teaching and Learning Center.

Humans of the University of Saint Joseph is a spinoff of the Humans of New York project. Humans of New York began as a photography project in 2010. The initial goal was to photograph 10,000 New Yorkers on the street, and create an exhaustive catalogue of the city's inhabitants. Since then a number of initiatives have spawned nationwide. Read about the origin of the Humans of New York Project [here](#).



Chapel Bells

Please Note:

The date of the Chapel Bells Mass has been changed.

The new date is:

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018

4 p.m.

Workshops held on Hoffman stage.

Space is limited.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. - Workshop

The master class taught by Lorelei Chang in "Dance & Calligraphy," offers an insightful way to connect body, mind and spirit. In this master class, we will be experiencing Chinese calligraphy-inspired movement, composing dance phrases based on the brush work. The purpose of using different art forms to inspire dancers is to help them discover new ways of connecting the body and mind, composing movements, and providing an opportunity to explore the art of movement through different lenses. Space is limited. Workshops held on Hoffman stage.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. - Showcase Performance, Bruyette Athenaeum, Hoffman Auditorium.

For more information, email [Susan Murphy](#) or [Steven Ginsburg](#). [Register](#) today for the workshops and the showcase performance.



Alumni Volunteer Opportunities

Connor Chapel of our Lady

University of Saint Joseph

The Mass will be followed by a light reception in the Bruyette
Athenaeum, Coleman Lobby.

Email [Amanda Sherman](#), Stewarship Coordinator, or call her
at 860.231.5462 with questions.

Class Notes Ambassador

Watch for the next edition of
Outlook to read the latest
updates from your
classmates. Alumni Relations
is looking for a volunteer to
coordinate class notes from
your class. Find out, is there
a classmate who has a
career, family, or education
update. To volunteer, email
[Tonja Russo](#), or call the
Office of Alumni Relations,
860.231.5447.

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1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117

