

# OUTLOOK Magazine



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

Fall  
2017



Student  
Success and  
Engagement





## Grateful Family Establishes the Helen and John Fischer Fund for Mercy Service

When she was growing up in Sea Girt, N.J., Beth Fischer, RSM, '76, assistant dean of Student Affairs/Community Engagement, and her siblings didn't need to look far for moral exemplars; their parents, Helen and John Fischer, were humble and selfless about their service while being outstanding role models to their family. Throughout their lives, both parents were always reaching out to neighbors — helping them behind the scenes by providing food and funding, caring for the sick, and demonstrating how a daily simple act of kindness can impact someone's life forever.

Beth joined her mother on many neighborly visits and witnessed how her parents were making a positive difference in the lives of those they assisted, but it wasn't until decades later that she learned about the scope of their kindness and generosity.

“After my dad died, we heard countless stories of his generosity to others during his career in banking — acts of kindness none of us had even known about. This instilled in me my passion for social work and working with the underserved,” she recalled.

When she was ready to go to college, Beth and her parents fell in love with Saint Joseph College and knew it was the right place for her. Her passion for service was further developed as she studied Sociology and Social Work and continued volunteering in the community. In college and on her own, Beth found that while Hartford, Conn. was different from her

hometown, the needs of the underserved were basically the same. It was at Saint Joe's where Beth met the Sisters of Mercy and felt a connection to their charisma and ministry. Once she earned her bachelor's degree and started her professional career, her passion and commitment to service grew and she eventually joined the Sisters of Mercy.

Today, her parents would continue to be proud of Sister Beth, who has become a role model of her own through her service and, now, by establishing this very significant family gift to the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) — the Helen and John Fischer Fund for Mercy Service. The Fund will support:

- Student community engagement and service-learning activities, such as those currently administered by the Office of Community Engagement. These could include, but are not limited to, student engagement at the Wellness Center, Malta House of Care, Sandwich Ministry, and the Franciscan Center, and must provide services to individuals in economic need within the Greater Hartford area.
- Travel to international and U.S. locations for service activities, including health care, education, and social work, to benefit needy populations.
- Scholarship support for USJ degree completion by health care practitioners from Guyana or similar regions in economic and medical need.

President Rhona Free, Ph.D., grateful for all of the service Sister Beth provides the USJ community, reflected on this significant gift: “The Fischer Fund is a celebration of a kind and generous family with full hearts, love of community, and hope for all people. We are very grateful for this enduring legacy donation and excited to see it being put to good use where it's needed most.” 🙏

## OUTLOOK Magazine Fall 2017

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Alumnae Team Up on Artistic Endeavor



Dear Friends,

The start of another academic year is always invigorating — and this year especially so as we look ahead to the next chapter of the University with the first full-time coeducational undergraduate class in 2018. Since the USJ Board of Trustees' unanimous vote in June to become fully coeducational, we have been working to prepare for all of the incoming students. While maintaining our focus on current students, the administrative leadership team has also been planning for changes throughout the University — from faculty training and updates in admissions, athletics, and student affairs, to improved facilities and a dedicated Women's Leadership Center on campus. As you will see in the pages that follow, we also celebrated two successful commencements in May, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students, followed by a festive Gala in June honoring the Sisters of Mercy and their contributions to the University.

With the fall semester underway, you can sense the positive momentum. Prospective students are visiting campus, current students and faculty are participating in scholarly work and service projects, engaging on-campus events and ongoing connections to other Hartford-area college students are happening, a wide array of arts programs are underway, and our athletics teams are competing in another exciting season of NCAA Division III sports. This issue of *OUTLOOK* is focused on student engagement and success, one of the pillars of the 2020 Strategic Plan, which is the blueprint and vision for the University. Since its founding by the Sisters of Mercy, USJ has committed to providing higher education for women, who in the early 1930s had very few options. Then, time and time again, USJ evolved and expanded while remaining steadfast to its mission and values, creating coeducational graduate programs in 1959, coeducational undergraduate classes for adult learners in 1985, and professional doctoral degrees for men and women in 2011. Now, as we become fully-coeducational, we continue to innovate and evolve to ensure that we are ready to meet the higher education needs of all students wishing to excel in their chosen field of study with a values-based education.

Please take a look at the supplemental videos and photos that accompany many of our *OUTLOOK* stories online at: [www.usj.edu/outlook](http://www.usj.edu/outlook). We welcome you to submit reflections from your USJ experience at [outlook@usj.edu](mailto:outlook@usj.edu).

I hope to see you on campus soon.

Regards,

*Rhona C. Free*

Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.  
President

President's Insights

# PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO WELCOME ALL STUDENTS FALL 2018

By Diana Sousa, MBA

Almost immediately after the Board of Trustees voted for full-time undergraduate coeducational programs on June 14, a leadership team with representatives from across the University gathered to begin implementing transition plans for all incoming, fall 2018 students.

The Coeducation Implementation Plan has areas of focus based on the report from the Coeducation Task Force and the capital investment objectives of the University's 2020 Strategic Plan. Specifically, the team has outlined projects to be completed by September 2018, including changes and investments to:

- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS** — Faculty and faculty training to be prepared for mixed gender classes; development of new and existing academic programs, including General Education requirements, Honors Program, Program for Adult Learners, and First Year Seminar; academic advising and support services; accessibility services; and career services
- **ADMINISTRATION** — Budgets; health and wellness counseling; public safety; and Title IX training
- **ATHLETICS** — Agreements with the NCAA and GNAC; athletes and coaches; and athletic facilities and fields for coeducational needs
- **FACILITIES** — Residence halls; student meeting spaces; and food options
- **INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT** — Scholarships; annual fund; and grants
- **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS** — All undergraduate marketing assets including the website and social media channels; expanding sponsorships, public relations, and advertising to include all students; and updating the brand of the University to include coeducational undergraduate programs
- **STUDENT AFFAIRS** — Orientation program; year-round activities; staff and staff training

Stay up-to-date with coeducational plans by visiting our website: [www.usj.edu/about-us/coeducation-usj](http://www.usj.edu/about-us/coeducation-usj)



# From the Provost's Perspective



**On the cusp of a historic change for the University of Saint Joseph, Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., discusses the institution's foundational pillars for success and investments.**

*How does USJ help students succeed?*

A lot of it has to do with our mission and the core values. Unlike institutions that might have graduate students teaching, we have faculty teaching. The faculty are very engaged with the students and invested in student success.

Our academic and support services are also a big piece of it, as well as the collaboration between faculty and those services. They really are working in concert.

Career Services, and all of our experiential education and internships, play a part too. Students are getting real-world experience, and hopefully many of those experiences translate into jobs.

Lastly, a lot of our majors directly relate to a career: Nursing, Social Work, Education. Even in the more traditional liberal arts majors, most programs have an internship. Students can see a job possibility and learn the skills that employers are looking for, like critical thinking, problem solving, and communication tactics. We produce very well-rounded, qualified graduates.

By Elizabeth Marone '15

*Will there be other changes as the University prepares to admit male students?*

We're committed to having a living and learning community for women. Whether that's a whole residence hall devoted to women or one floor of a residence hall, we're likely to see some space dedicated to women.

We're also looking at doing faculty and staff development programs this year to make sure everyone is prepared for the different ways that males and females learn, and how the dynamics in the classroom, and outside the classroom, might change.

*As USJ remains committed to women, the Women's Leadership Center (WLC), which began in 2016, continues to develop. What can students and alumni expect from WLC events?*

The idea is to provide programming for women that helps them move into leadership roles, particularly in areas where there are fewer female leaders. We are focusing on what capabilities women need to move forward in their careers. There is some literature that suggests competence, with business and strategy acumen, are some of the things that would help women advance their careers.

*What are you most looking forward to at this time in USJ's history?*

I think it's an exciting time and a huge opportunity. It's one thing to admit men, which will be wonderful, but the data show that close to 98 percent of women won't even think about a women's college. The fact that we become an option for more women, while adding men, is an important point for the University. It's a big change, but I think we are ready for it.

I also hope we can help change the gender dynamics in some professions, like nursing. We have a very strong Nursing program with a long history, and nursing, as a profession, is female-dominated. There is a lot of discussion about trying to increase the number of male nurses, so hopefully we can help attract young men to come into nursing and address that workforce need. We can play a bigger role because we are educating both genders. 🙏



## Educating Tomorrow's Nurses

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Though Theodora (Teddy) Sirota, Ph.D., APRN, SNL, only began as chair of the department of Nursing in July, she immediately felt at home on USJ's campus. No stranger to small, mission-focused, Catholic universities, she helped develop, and later led, the nursing program at Caldwell University — a small institution founded by the Sisters of Saint Dominic.

"I feel that I get it," Dr. Sirota said. "I understand the mission; I understand the philosophy."

Her passion for nursing education originated at NYU, where she completed her master's degree and was asked to join the faculty. Between her master's and the completion of her doctoral degree, Dr. Sirota trained to be a therapist and independent clinical practitioner, opening a private psychotherapy practice in Manhattan. Later, she returned to academia, teaching at Seton Hall, Caldwell, and, now, the University of Saint Joseph.

Drawn to USJ and the department of Nursing for its holistic approach to teaching students how to care for patients, Dr. Sirota also appreciated its emphasis on psychiatric mental health education, an important clinical area that is often not emphasized — according to Teddy — in many university Nursing departments. As a practicing psychiatric nurse and nurse educator, Dr. Sirota stresses that psychiatric mental health knowledge and skills are critical for all nursing students to learn and practice.

**"Psychiatric mental health nursing is extremely important," stated Dr. Sirota. "Everybody who needs health care has mental health issues. You may not have a specific psychiatric condition, but if you're going to have surgery tomorrow, you have anxiety. You need someone with communication skills who can listen to you and help you process your feelings, and we need to teach these skills to all nursing students."**

Dr. Sirota's philosophy for educating future nurses has always centered on a strong connection between education and practice. It is through the merging of the two that graduating nurses are effectively prepared for, and work most effectively in, the workforce.

"The students are taught best practices while they're in their nursing programs, and then they graduate," Dr. Sirota explained. "They go to a different culture in their field and, all of a sudden, that takes them over."

"Unfortunately, nurses often don't think alike in the two cultures of education and practice. We've got to get much more connected, and that's one of the reasons why I love Saint Joseph: The hospitals and other community agencies that we're involved in are very dedicated to us, and we to them. We are embedded in their units as practitioners and their nurses are embedded in our educational experience. That's the connection we give to each other that enables both students and practicing nurses to learn and grow together." One of her goals is to assist students working clinically with patients to develop research questions from situations that arise, and then, with faculty assistance, conduct the necessary related scholarship that can provide scientific rationales to further enhance the nursing process.

Dr. Sirota's goals at USJ also include her first initiative in the Nursing department: an educational enhancement and support program for pre-nursing students. Faculty and staff will work with students in the program to strengthen their education and meet the rigorous requirements for admission to USJ's Nursing program.

To provide these services, Dr. Sirota is working with Diane Zelazny, BSN, RNC, Health and Natural Sciences Support Services Coordinator, and Assistant Professors of Nursing Lucinda Canty, RN, CNM, MSN, and Denise Puia '91, Ph.D., MSN, RN-C. This initiative benefits students with built-in resources, including tutors embedded in their freshman-level courses and weekly support groups.

As chair of the Nursing department, she will not be teaching specific courses, but will lecture on her area of expertise, LGBTQ health. Additionally, she is working with students to complete academic projects and publications.

"I want to see undergraduate students do research and publish," Dr. Sirota stated. "I'm willing to work with any student who wants to do that. It keeps me in the work, it keeps me in the knowledge, it keeps me in the literature. I can't walk away from that, because that's what being an academic is really all about." 🙏





**ASD Pinning** – The University of Saint Joseph department of Nursing, clinical faculty, administration, family, and friends honored 21 graduates of the Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing (ASD) Program.



**Mission I'mPossible** – During Week of Welcome, "Mission I'mPossible," was an event designed to let students discover how they fit into the USJ Mission and Core values.



**Move in Day** – First-year students embraced their new home away from home as they moved into their residence halls.

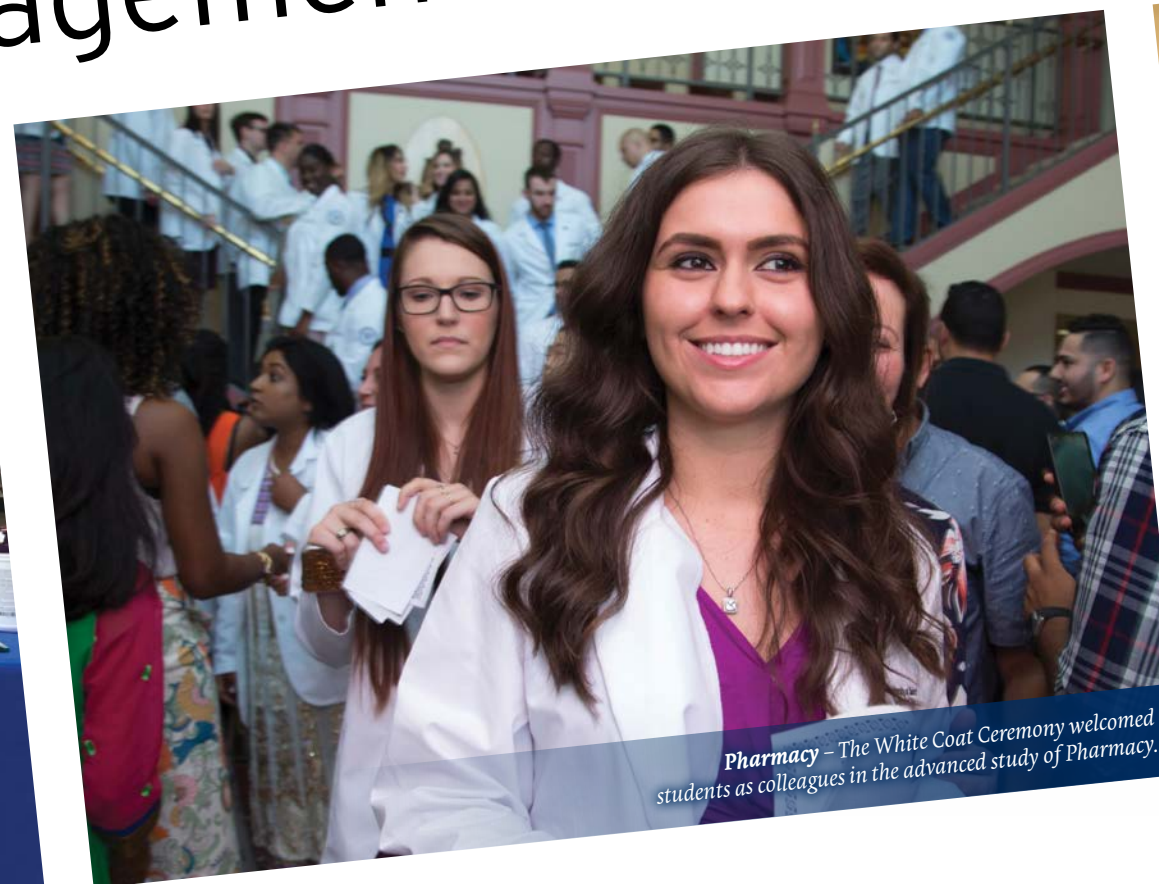
# Student Engagement in the Community

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.



**Health Screenings** – USJ School of Pharmacy students Keandra Bates, Lauren Briggs, and Michelle Kolakowski volunteered with Dr. Daniel Fox, a pharmacy manager at Stop & Shop Pharmacy in Bristol, Conn. They checked blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and did vaccine reviews for customers as part of a health screening event.

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VACCINATION REVIEWS  
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**Pharmacy** – The White Coat Ceremony welcomed students as colleagues in the advanced study of Pharmacy.



**Nursing Trip** – USJ nursing students and Mercy Corps volunteers bathe a new baby on their missionary trip to Guyana.



# The New College Experience

By Elizabeth Marone '15

The University of Saint Joseph's location in the Greater Hartford area provides students with access to the capital city's top businesses. With an easy commute to internship sites, students gain valuable experiences during their college careers. But USJ's central location also offers another unique opportunity: membership to the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education (HCHE).

A group of 11 higher education institutions in the area, the Hartford Consortium includes Capital Community College, Central Connecticut State University, Charter Oak State College, Goodwin College, Hartford Seminary, Manchester Community College, St. Thomas Seminary, Trinity College, UConn Hartford, University of Hartford, and USJ.

As part of a member institution, full-time USJ students, faculty, and staff have the option to cross-register in selected courses and departments across the Consortium. With more than 36,000 students enrolled, upwards of 4,000 faculty members teaching, and classes in 475 fields of study, the HCHE provides students with a highly-customizable college experience.

"The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education is an outstanding example of collaboration and sharing of resources and expertise," remarked Michele MacCarone Brophy '80, M'90, DAA'92, assistant director of Academic Advisement. "As an academic advisor, I have seen firsthand the benefits to USJ students who are able to take courses not offered at USJ at other Consortium institutions through the cross-registration process."

"The Hartford Consortium is part of a bigger trend in higher education of allowing students to customize their degrees to create something unique," explained Anna Syta, associate registrar. "They wanted to allow students to have access to courses that are highly specialized and that, usually at one institution, wouldn't be able to get enough students to enroll."

USJ students, Arielle Outlaw and Brielle Price enjoying college night out in Hartford.



For a smaller institution like USJ, the HCHE offers students access to an expanded course catalog. Many students — including those in Nursing and Education — enroll in American Sign Language courses at the University of Hartford. By broadening their ability to communicate with future patients and students respectively, they set themselves apart in the job market, all while remaining at the college they originally selected, USJ.

Many students who enroll in courses at USJ through the Consortium attend Trinity College in Hartford. As Trinity does not offer teacher licensure,

students interested in a future in Education can take part in USJ's well-respected program. When visiting students enjoy their USJ experience, it often leads to future enrollment in one of the University's many graduate programs, especially Education.

In addition to diversifying their course load, Consortium enrollment helps students develop flexible schedules so they can seize experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom. For USJ's Nursing students, who fulfill clinical requirements at local hospitals each semester, finding the necessary course in the right time slot can make all the difference. Instead of postponing general education requirements until senior year because of scheduling conflicts, they can create the schedule that works best for them, giving them peace of mind as they pursue their rigorous degree.

To add to the college experience outside the classroom, the HCHE also hosts College Night, a social event for students.

These outings, whether held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art or on Pratt Street, build a sense of camaraderie among the Hartford-area institutions, allowing students to build social and professional connections outside USJ's campus.

**As a member of the HCHE, USJ maintains its commitment to students, offering them the unique learning experience that will prepare them for a successful future in their desired career, all while serving other local college students as well.**



## BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

By Elizabeth Marone '15

Moving from Puerto Rico to Hartford, Conn. at the age of four, Lourdes Garcia '19 grew up distancing herself from her Latina roots to fit in with her classmates. With age, she gained a deep appreciation for her culture and her heritage, inspiring her to use her experiences and unique skills to enact change in the world.

Now a junior Social Work major with a minor in Psychology at USJ, Garcia is well on her way to achieving her goal of making a difference as a marriage and family therapist.

Since the beginning of her college career, she has gained valuable experiences and put her bilingual skills to good use. As part of the Aurora Foundation-funded Latino Community Practice internship in the department of Social Work, Garcia worked as a Spanish tutor for two students at the Gengras Center School.

"I had to step out of my comfort zone and basically be a teacher on my own," she stated.

The internship was a valuable learning experience for her, allowing her to delve deeper into her heritage and her newfound tutoring skills. A daunting task for a first-year student, Garcia felt prepared to tackle that challenge, as well as the many others she has encountered throughout her two years, thanks to her time in USJ's MERCY Bridge program.

During the month-long summer program, Garcia attended classes, learned about the University's many resources, and lived on campus the summer before her freshman year.

"It gave me the opportunity to make friends so I was comfortable," Garcia remarked. "It also gave me skills that I was going to need." By the time the semester started, "I felt like I was already a student. That's what that

program did for us: It really gave us a step up to feel more confident."

That confidence, matched with her drive and determination, has fueled Garcia's willingness to expand her horizons on USJ's campus. In addition to tutoring, Garcia has worked at the Academic Advisement Center since her freshman year — a position that has expanded her range of capabilities within her current internship. She also served as a commuter mentor and continues to hold a position at the School for Young Children (SYC).

At the start of her junior year, Garcia added a Social Work internship to her weekly commitments. Despite her increasingly busy schedule — which includes responsibilities at her local church as well — Garcia welcomed the opportunity to maintain a few hours at SYC every week.

"I started doing that last year and I loved it so much," Garcia shared. "It's nice to work with the children and the staff are super nice."

With a diverse résumé, Garcia will graduate with a wide variety of experiences and skills that will make her very marketable to employers.

However, Garcia cannot overstate the importance of her USJ classroom experiences, especially in Social Work. College has helped open her eyes, shaping Garcia's world view and sparking a passion to be an agent of change.

"There's a chance for improvement in a lot of things and, as social workers, that's something that comes naturally to us: We see people's stories and their struggles," she explained.

Learning to question everything, to delve deeper into society's inner workings, and to challenge the norm, Garcia's goal is to enact change and create a more equal future for all individuals, especially minorities. Her experiences at USJ are just the beginning — a stepping stone that will prepare her for a bright future serving the community.

"I think the programs and the jobs that I have chosen to be part of have really been things that I've been passionate about and that I've really enjoyed doing," Garcia remarked. "They've definitely helped me grow as an individual, as a professional, and as a student."

**"Good grades are important, but you need to be diverse in your résumé," she said. "You need to get your experiences somewhere else. I'm confident that when I graduate I will be prepared for real life, for my career."**



# Students Benefit From USJ Career Connection Opportunities

By Kat Connelly



*Pictured from left to right: Mary Kate Eanniello, preceptor and nurse educator at Hartford Hospital; Fred Flynn, creator of the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship; Sara Fontaine, USJ Class of 2018; Anxhlliki Duro, UConn Class of 2018; and Sarah Collin, USJ Class of 2018*



*Hannah Lemek '18, a Public Policy and Advocacy major, stands with Anita Schepker, M'77, attorney for Schepker & Associates, LLC, and Jessica Tyburski '15*

The number of University of Saint Joseph students participating in different forms of high-impact learning experiences outside the classroom has risen to 92 percent in the past few years. Individuals across all subject areas are seeing the benefits or completing internship, field study, research, or clinical placements as a way to apply what they've learned in the classroom out in the community and to enhance their overall academic experience at USJ.

Experiential learning opportunities for students can come from a variety of outlets, both on and off campus. Faculty members can be a great resource for students to partner with on research initiatives or find similar placements in the surrounding community with other field experts.

The Career Development Center, part of the Student Academic & Career Services Center located in the Pope Pius XII Library, is a vital resource for students and recent graduates to seek guidance on finding internship and field study placements, as well as career advising and planning for after graduation.

"Our role in Career Development is to support students as they navigate their experiences, provide opportunities to build skills and explore career paths, and help them to reflect on all facets of life here at the University of Saint Joseph," remarked Bret Boudreaux, director of the Career Development Center.

position. Foster responded by meeting with Boudreaux to set up an interview with Bradley, Foster & Sargent, Inc., an independently-owned investment advisory firm based in Hartford, Conn. Foster was hired as a data mining intern for the summer.

"My education at USJ has prepared me for this internship through my courses, such as Statistics and Research Methods, and it really

In the case of USJ Psychology student Annie Foster '17, she found her internship through a combined effort from Boudreaux and Lisa Kuntz, Ed.D., associate clinical professor of Psychology.

Boudreaux sent an email about the opportunity to a number of faculty and Kuntz reached out to Foster in the belief that she would be a good candidate for the

helps with the data-mining I do for the market," said Foster. "Doing an internship in undergrad, because of experience, definitely helps with getting a job later on. You'll know a lot more about what you're doing in that position so it's not as nerve-wracking."

An equally important, resource for students to tap into for experiential learning opportunities is the extensive USJ alumni network. The University has decades worth of graduates excelling in various fields throughout the surrounding area. Alumni welcome the chance to help students as they share the commonality of a Mercy values-based education and share a sense of pride about USJ.

Anita Schepker, M'77, an attorney at Schepker & Associates, LLC, who works with clients in the Legislative Office and the Connecticut State Capitol, is no exception. She earned a master's in Education from USJ and boasts a historical connection to the University — her mother graduated in 1948 and helped plant the trees now fully grown on the Quad. "The first person we hired to work at the Capitol was Jessica Tyburski '15, who was an intern there at the time," noted Schepker. "In fact, it was Jessica who suggested we go back to USJ when we were looking for somebody."

This summer, Schepker & Associates, LLC, hired senior Hannah Lemek '18 as an intern, bringing the number of individuals associated with USJ to three. As a Public Policy & Advocacy major with a minor in Business Management, and an active participant in Lobby Day and other public service events, Lemek was drawn to working in legislation at the state level. "She [Tyburski] contacted me when she saw I was involved and wanted to know if I had any interest in being an intern at the state level in lobbying," said Lemek. "It's unique to work with two other USJ alumnae because it made both parties feel more comfortable." Watch the interviews with Anita and Hannah online at [www.usj.edu/HannahLemek](http://www.usj.edu/HannahLemek).

High-impact learning — enhanced by opportunities to engage with professionals, alumni, and community members in different fields outside the classroom — is what makes USJ students exceptionally prepared to enter the work force after graduation. "Experiential learning is a vital part of the college experience," said Boudreaux. He, along with many others, will continue to encourage students to use the outlets available to position themselves for successful careers after their time at USJ. 🏆



# A VALUABLE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By Elizabeth Marone '15

From the first time they step foot on campus, students learn the seven core values of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ): Catholic identity, development of the whole person, compassionate service, academic excellence, respect and integrity, hospitality, and multiculturalism and diversity. Both in and out of the classroom, these values — along with the University's Mission — shape their USJ experience.

For residential students, this education in values begins right at home in their residence halls. Each Resident Assistant (RA), tasked with planning seven programs each semester, is required to include four that directly relate to the core values. Thanks to their innovative interpretations and creative events, attendance at core value-based programming has increased over the past several years.

"The residential experience is not meant to be just a place for you to sleep and rest after classes," said Megan Sniffin, interim coordinator of Residential Life. "The goal of programming is to engage with other students, as well as staff, faculty, and with student leaders. The mission and core values really give a focus to the planning and programming that we do so that we're meeting the needs of students."

The students on the Special Programming and Events Council (SPEC) executive board also work diligently to provide programming for their peers, dedicating time and effort to hiring performers and vendors who both entertain and align with the mission of the institution. Board members do not take their responsibility to the institution and their fellow

students lightly, hand-selecting acts each year at the National Association of Campus Activities Northeast Conference.

"SPEC does a really good job of making sure the talent that they bring fits into the mission," explained Virginia Doxsey, director of Student Involvement and Orientation Programs. "The students are very cognizant of that."

In addition to serving others, the skills they learn as part of SPEC benefit them in their personal lives and prepare them to enter the real world after graduation. Whether working with artists or coordinating events, SPEC members gain valuable experiences that will benefit them in their careers, no matter their field.

Annie Knizeski '18, Special Education major and SPEC vice chair, knows this well. For her, it all comes down to communication — a skill already serving her well in student teaching. "You have to talk to the performers, but you are also communicating to other members too. You're working together, trying to get the students involved."

Students also gain important life skills through USJ's Adventure Education program. Led by Justin McGlamery, Adventure Education coordinator, and Liza Bocchichio, assistant coordinator, students use ropes courses, drum circles, and group activities to bond with one another and live out the University's core values.

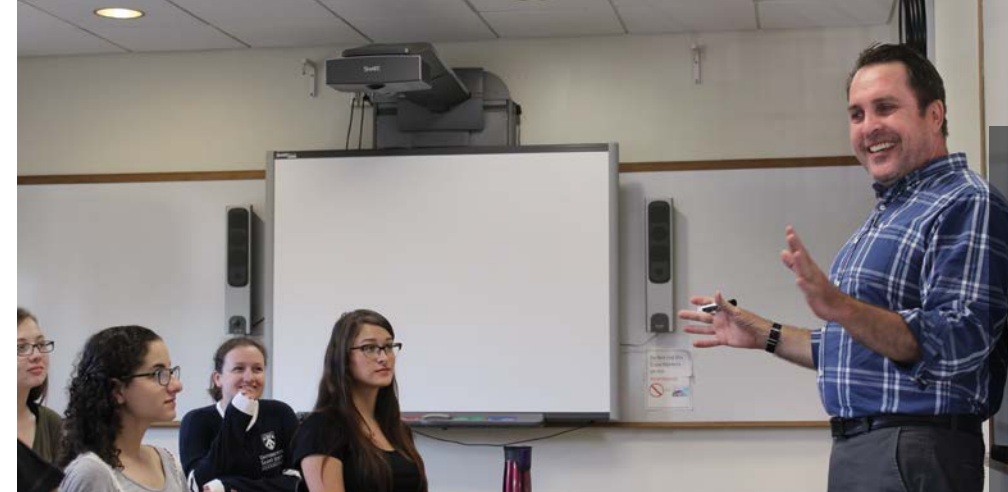
"Everything we do in Adventure Ed is basically a metaphor for every other

aspect of college life," remarked McGlamery. "If you're willing to stretch outside your comfort zone and take these types of risks to go beyond where you thought you could go before, you're putting a deposit in your emotional bank that you can draw upon the next time you come up against something challenging. You're likely to have more confidence and be more willing and able to take academic risks."

In addition to these valuable on-campus experiences, students travel into the community to serve others and learn from them. Whether a course requirement or an extracurricular activity, students perform community outreach through the Wellness Center on Church Street — a partnership between USJ and Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony Church in Hartford. Along with alums, students help at Hands-On Hartford, MANNA Community Meals, and the Malta House of Care, among others.

"It's our mission in action," said Beth Fischer, RSM, '76, assistant dean of Student Affairs/Community Engagement. "For some students, it's putting what they learn in the classroom into action and making a difference in people's lives. It's a ministry of the heart. Students engage with someone face-to-face, heart-to-heart, and they hear someone's story. That's very powerful."

**These powerful experiences — both on and off campus — ensure that students graduate with a deep understanding of, and appreciation for, the University's mission and core values. Stepping into the future, they will carry USJ with them, living out the values and contributing to society.**



## Cultivating Critical Thinking

By Elizabeth Marone '15

University of Saint Joseph (USJ) graduates are repeatedly recognized for their critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and diligent work ethic when they enter the workforce. To help hone these talents, USJ not only offers rigorous curricula across its majors, but also programs that help students achieve their potential, including the Honors Program.

Through thought-provoking, discussion-based, interdisciplinary courses and faculty mentorship opportunities, USJ's Honors students spend their undergraduate careers pushing the boundaries of what they thought possible.

**"The Honors Program embodies all the best aspects of our Catholic intellectual tradition here at USJ: a rigorous and interdisciplinary search for what is true, a supportive and challenging community of faculty and students, and a desire to practice our Mercy values within the broader Hartford area,"** explained Benjamin Peters, Ph.D., director of the Honors Program and associate professor of Religious Studies.

"Honors students do this through Honors courses (including study-abroad, service-learning, and independent study options), presenting research at academic conferences, and participating in various Mercy service opportunities," he continued.

Many students who participate in the program feel drawn to the unique learning opportunities offered in Honors courses. Heavily discussion-based, they enjoy the thoughtful conversations the carefully-designed program affords.

"I feel that's how I learn best," shared Megan Ricci '20. "It's not just someone talking at me and writing stuff down; it's actually interacting with other people and getting to know other opinions. Then, I feel more open to sharing my opinions."

Diverse extracurricular activities accompany the discussion-based courses, allowing students to strive for new achievements both in and out of the classroom. One such activity connects to the core of the University's Mission: compassionate service. Whether volunteering at the Catholic Worker House in Hartford or assisting at Saint Mary's Nursing Home adjacent to campus, the students recognize the lasting importance of community engagement.

While helping others, they build a sense of community among themselves. These bonds — forged in classrooms and volunteer opportunities — flourish in the program's recreational activities. From the annual Honors Senior Night, where students dress up and acknowledge graduating seniors, to weekly pizza lunches in the Honors Lounge, they ensure their time at USJ is not focused solely on work.

"It has definitely shaped my USJ experience," remarked Nana Kyem '19. "I feel like we're already such a close-knit community, but there are so many different perspectives within the Honors Program. I have friends from all different majors."

Through the open structure of the program, students explore these differing

perspectives, learning to listen to their peers, understand other points of view, and effectively form their own arguments.

"It's a new way of thinking, even when meeting someone outside the classroom," said Ricci. "It makes you question everything. Now, I have the capabilities — and I'm learning to break down an argument and find out what I actually believe, what part is true, and what part is not."

These critical thinking skills, though already proving beneficial during their undergraduate careers, will set students apart in the job market. Additionally, the opportunity to work closely with expert faculty members on independent research projects ensures they graduate with valuable work experiences. From the field to conferences, the students follow the projects, which stem from their areas of focus, from conceptualization to completion.

As a result, by the time they cross the stage at commencement, Honors students are ready to tackle any future challenges that may arise.

"I absolutely feel like I'm very well prepared," stated Kyem. "I just feel as though always being able to think critically, regardless of what situation you're thrown into, is a really good skillset to have and to know. All of the different Honors courses — even if they weren't directly related to my major — have allowed me to understand ideas in a different way and bring a different perspective to the table." 🏆





## David Slomski, Pharm.D.'14: Making a Difference Through Holistic Medicine

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

As a Pharmacist/Dispensary Facility Manager, Slomski provides patients with a holistic approach to healing and therapy. During his last year in the program, he found his current position through the Connecticut Pharmacist Association (CPA), a top advocacy group for pharmacists. This gave him the opportunity to contribute to development of The Healing Corner, which was founded in 2014.

"I was involved in some of the processes of getting the program up and running as an intern while I was in pharmacy school. So I thought, why not take advantage of the opportunity and give it a try? I've been doing it for three years, and so far I love it. I'm the manager of the facility now," he remarked.

Dr. Slomski still stays involved with the USJ community. He gets to see faculty members and colleagues through the Connecticut Pharmacist Foundation and networking events for pharmacists. He even teaches courses at the University throughout the year.

According to several pharmacy owners and managers in Connecticut, the caliber of USJ students is a league above other universities. It's the general knowledge base, maturity, three-year curriculum, and faculty that create such a dynamic program.

When giving advice to current students in the School of Pharmacy, Slomski recommends getting involved in extracurricular activities. "There are numerous pharmacy groups at the state and national level. It's really important to get involved," he said. In addition, he emphasized the importance of treating all interactions with people like a job interview while in school. "You never know. You could be interviewing them or they could be interviewing you for a job one day."

During his time in Pharmacy school, Slomski was Class President in 2011, and Student Government Association President in 2012. Slomski encourages students to take advantage of the resources offered by USJ. He values the hands-on experience, expert faculty members, and sense of community USJ has given him. 🏆

It may have been three years since Dr. David Slomski graduated from the University of Saint Joseph, but it's like he never left. The connections Slomski made with faculty and colleagues left a positive impact on his life. As the Pharmacist/Dispensary Facility Manager at The Healing Corner in Bristol, Conn., he's doing more than dispensing prescription medicine; he is changing lives.

"As cliché as it sounds, I found the whole USJ experience the most valuable. It was the combination of interactions between my faculty members, students on rotation, preceptors, and the core base of knowledge I received while at the University," said Slomski. "Pharmacy is a small world, and we have the power to change some things."

When students enter USJ's School of Pharmacy, they earn their doctorate degree after three calendar years of rigorous studies, and clinical experiences. Through his diligent endeavors, Slomski found his passion by working with doctors and patients. Originally, he planned to start a career in research and development after receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in Biomolecular Science from Central Connecticut State University.

## Lynn Olson-Douglas '05, M'08: Business Management Graduate Found Success in Human Resources

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

Lynn Olson-Douglas has accomplished a lot since graduating from the University of Saint Joseph. She is now a director of Human Resources (HR) at The Travelers Companies, Inc. in Hartford. While she loves the gratification from solving problems, working with other HR professionals, and contributing to the success of her company, HR was not her original career path.

"Originally, I went to college with the mindset that I was going to own my own car dealership, be an entrepreneur, and be in the sales world. That was my dream since I was five. I was raised in that business," said Olson-Douglas.

As Business Management majors, students are required to complete an internship. This helps students transition into a professional career. At the time, Olson-Douglas was unable to find a marketing or sales internship. Her advisor, Professor Steven B. Jarett, MPA, CPA, persuaded her to pursue an internship in Human Resources.

"Professor Jarett told me even if I decide to run my own business one day, it's a necessity to understand the HR fundamentals to succeed." So with this new mindset, Olson-Douglas completed her first internship at the Plainville Board of Education, and received a positive three-page recommendation letter from her supervisor.

From that point on, her career took off. Her Plainville Board of Education supervisor referred her to the Human Resources Association of Central Connecticut (HRACC) to advance her knowledge. This led to her first job at the Marriott Hartford Downtown as a Human Resources manager on the Pre-Opening Team. Within two years she was promoted to director of Human Resources for the Connecticut Convention Center.

As her skillset developed, and she gained work experience, she received another recommendation. The board Vice President of HRACC encouraged her to apply for a position at Travelers. In 2011, Travelers hired Olson-Douglas as a Human Resources Manager and promoted her to director one year later. She says, "If I didn't take that first opportunity, I wouldn't be in this career that I have such passion for and love. You never know why things may come your way."

When Olson-Douglas looks back at her experience at the University of Saint Joseph, she wouldn't change a thing. The professors provided her with real-life advice, and always offered encouragement. She remarked:

"I still talk to my professors, which is almost unheard of. Even the friends I met in college are still in my network. We may be in different fields, but we still reach out to one another. It's that support system that's really helped me." 🏆







# USJ Office of Admissions: YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL

By Jasmine Taylor, M.A.

The quest to enroll students who will thrive at the University of Saint Joseph is a year-round venture. The Office of Admissions started the current recruiting cycle in June, on the day that the coeducation decision was made, and has been in high gear ever since.

Admissions counselors are on the road throughout the fall semester to visit high schools, college fairs, community colleges, and make connections with potential first-year and transfer students. In the spring, they are working to build the incoming classes through personal outreach and campus events that are designed to help students determine if USJ is the right fit. With the University's rolling admissions, the process continues into the summer, and then begins again for the next year. Meanwhile, programming for prospective graduate students brings them to campus throughout the year to participate in events showcasing opportunities at USJ.

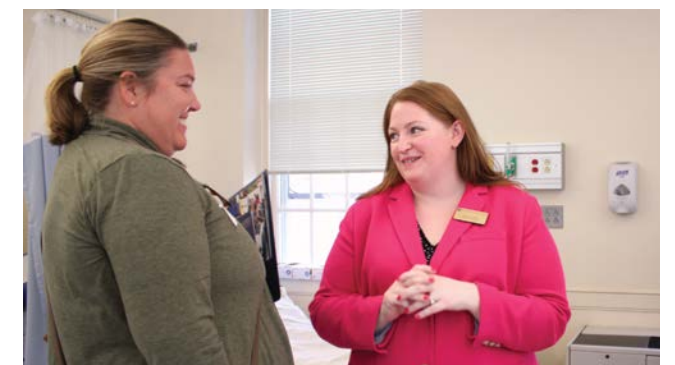
USJ's adoption of an SAT-optional admissions for many programs ensures that new students are considered for more than just their test scores.

**“Our students have very diverse backgrounds: they may be student leaders, athletes, or do a lot of community service. We’ve put more emphasis on a holistic application review — what type of classes students are taking and if they are challenging themselves. We put a lot of attention on academic rigor,” said Molly Dever, M.S., director of Admissions.**

This has resulted in incoming classes with increasingly strong academic backgrounds, which leads to higher retention rates and greater student success. The mission-focused environment at USJ attracts students who want to be engaged in service, and who appreciate the blend of liberal arts and professional programs, ensuring that graduates are career-ready and able to address questions thoughtfully and communicate well with others. “You can go to school to become a nurse, lawyer, doctor, or accountant, but at the end of the day, if you don’t have the critical thinking skills, it’s going to be hard to compete in the job market or in life,” said Dever.

This year the Office of Admissions has incorporated some changes to allow its counselors to better serve students. There is a new online interface called SLATE; this is CRM (customer relationship management) software that will allow for better processing and review of applications. Admissions staff hosted an enthusiastic group of high school guidance counselors from across the country (see photos), who were touring area colleges this fall. And, they have welcomed two male undergraduate Admissions counselors to their team.

Sarah Delaney '20, a student intern in Admissions, is enjoying her University experience thus far. “As a Special



Education major, my professors have definitely had a big impact on me during my time at USJ. With such small class sizes, professors really get to know you and give you individualized attention. The professors also really care about your success and push you to do your best.” Delaney finds it rewarding to help prospective students in her role as an Admissions intern.

Morgan McDonald '20 interns in Admissions with Delaney. “The support USJ provides for its students to succeed and reach their full potential is outstanding. As a Nutrition major, the professors I have had at USJ are really committed to seeing their students succeed. I definitely feel prepared to start my professional career.”

In addition to the work done by Admissions, incoming students are

encouraged to work with Student Financial Services to address the best ways to fund their education. One tool provided is SALT, a nonprofit-backed resource that provides students with financial information and education. USJ's students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, benefit from scholarships — in fact, 99 percent of USJ students receive scholarships and grants based on their talent and prior performance.

It doesn't stop there. Juliana Harris '21 says, “I’m very excited to be at this prestigious university for Nursing. During the admissions process, everyone was very wonderful and helpful. They were with me every step of the way.” In addition, Sara Fontaine '18 said, “We appreciated the admissions counselors and financial advisors who personally sat down with my mom and me.”

USJ's graduate programs, designed to align with a working professional's needs, are flourishing as students seek to further advance their careers. In addition to programs on campus, graduate students have the opportunity to choose from several online master's degree programs. “We're very in-tune with what's going on in the world and try to align our programs with the real world,” Dever said.

Just as USJ's classrooms are updated with new technology and faculty continually revise their classes to incorporate new information and teaching methods, the Admissions and Student Financial Services offices adapt. Their goal remains the same — to ensure that every student who enrolls at USJ is prepared to succeed. 🏰





**AUGUST 1, 2017** August began with USJ, once again, proudly hosting the Ivan Lendl Adaptive Sports Camp, a free one-week camp for children, between the ages of 6 and 19, with physical disabilities.



**MAY 25, 2017** Just days after Commencement, USJ staff members participated in the 10th annual Professional Development Day. This year, the Keynote Speaker was Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander Esq., associate professor of Employment Law & Legal Studies at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business.



**MAY 18, 2017** At the Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony, Mohegan Tribe Chief Marilyn "Lynn" Malerba '83, H'10, DNP; 2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes, M'12; business woman, volunteer, and philanthropist Kathleen Driscoll Amatangelo '62; and journalist Mary Anne Gaetti '62 were honored for their professional achievements, exemplary leadership, and community service.



**AUGUST 8, 2017** For the third year, a group of students from Otsuma Nakano High School in Tokyo, Japan participated in the annual "University of Saint Joseph and Otsuma Nakano Junior and Senior High School Culture Program" at the University of Saint Joseph. During the two-week program at USJ, the students took classes in American government, dance, art, education, and nursing – all led by USJ faculty members – while also traveling to local and regional landmarks.

# Campus Snapshots

## JIM CALHOUN AND GLEN MILLER MAKE PLANS FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

*Team to begin playing when USJ becomes coeducational university in 2018*



The first-ever Blue Jays men's basketball organization is off to a great start with Hall of Famer Jim Calhoun serving as a consultant and an advisor to the president, and Glen Miller as the full-time associate director of men's basketball. Calhoun will advise on all aspects of establishing operations for the men's basketball team for fall 2018, when USJ full-time undergraduate programs become coeducational. Miller will begin working immediately to lead the effort to build the basketball program for 2018.

The University of Saint Joseph Blue Jays men's basketball team will begin playing at the Division III level in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) in 2018. Miller is in charge of recruiting, scheduling, and managing the day-to-day operations for the startup program, working alongside Calhoun.

President Rhona Free, Ph.D., said, "When our men's basketball team is formed next year for its inaugural season, it will be founded on the principles and insights of someone who shares our commitment to preparing students for lifetime success; Calhoun's stature will be a game changer in the awareness of USJ nationally, and illustrates our commitment to overall excellence of faculty and staff throughout the institution."

"Even though I stepped away from coaching five years ago, my passion for college basketball and helping young scholar athletes become the best they can be has always remained," Calhoun said. "It will be an honor to work with the team of Rhona Free and the Sisters of Mercy, and to play a role in starting something great with the first-ever USJ men's basketball team in 2018."

For Miller, joining USJ is a real thrill. "Basketball has done so much for me in my life, and so much of it right here in Connecticut, from Fitch High School in Groton to playing and coaching at UConn and coaching at Connecticut College. Now, I land here at a wonderful educational institution like USJ, where Bill Cardarelli and I will spend every day for the next year building something special from the ground up. I can't wait to get started," Miller said. "I sincerely thank President Rhona Free, the Sisters of Mercy, and Bill for having faith in me and giving me this amazing opportunity."

Coach Calhoun, who won three NCAA National Championships at UConn during his time there, from 1986-2012, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 17 years as a head men's basketball coach, Miller has compiled 233 wins, and was also part of two NCAA Division I Men's National Championships at UConn as director of basketball administration in 2011 and associate head coach in 2014.

Watch Jim Calhoun's video: [www.usj.edu/Calhoun](http://www.usj.edu/Calhoun) and stay tuned for more news about USJ Blue Jays on our website: [www.usjbluejays.com](http://www.usjbluejays.com)



# USJ ATHLETICS: YEAR IN REVIEW

By Joshua Ingham



## CROSS COUNTRY

The USJ cross country team posted back-to-back meet victories at the Blazer Invitational (Sept. 24) and the Blue Jay Invitational (Oct. 1). The team finished fourth out of eight teams at the 2016 GNAC Championships, which marked the highest team finish since 2000, when they finished third. Senior **Kaneen Gomez-Hixson** (Wethersfield, Conn.) was crowned the 5K individual champion at the GNAC Championships for the second straight year, topping the 97-runner field with a time of 19:54. Her stellar performance earned Gomez-Hixson GNAC Women's Runner of the Year. She became the first runner in USJ history to win the award twice.



## SOCCER

The USJ soccer team qualified for the GNAC post-season tournament for an unprecedented 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive season, USJ finishing the year with a 4-6-1 record in league play. Junior forward **Jessica Spezzano** (Watertown, Conn.) was named to the All-GNAC Third Team after leading the team with 14 total points on five goals and four assists, while classmate Shelby Tallman (Colchester, Conn.) was tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

## SOFTBALL

The USJ softball team was picked to finish eighth in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) preseason coaches' poll, but far exceeded expectations. They turned a 20-16 overall record for the 2017 season, including a 13-9 mark in GNAC play — good for a fifth-place finish. 2017 marked the seventh time in the past eight seasons that the Blue Jays have posted a 20+ win campaign. Their record qualified them for the GNAC postseason tournament for the eighth consecutive year. Freshman pitcher **Amaria Sharon** (Tolland, Conn.) and sophomore outfielder **Morgan Skoly** (Vernon, Conn.) were named to the All-GNAC Second Team.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
**BLUEJAYS**



## TENNIS

The USJ tennis team finished with a 6-7 overall record in the regular season and earned the fourth seed in the GNAC post-season tournament after going 3-3 in league play. The squad then advanced to the GNAC semifinals for the second consecutive season following a sweep of Albertus Magnus, 5-0, at home in the GNAC First Round match. Senior **Rebecca Mauri** (Meriden, Conn.) and sophomore **Sakinah Abdulsalam** (Bristol, Conn.) were named to the All-GNAC Singles Second Team, while sophomore Lucy Roberge (Willington, Conn.) was tabbed to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

## VOLLEYBALL

The USJ volleyball team recorded its third consecutive 10+ win season under sixth-year head coach and **Dejshona George '05**, finishing the season with an 11-16 overall record and 4-7 mark in GNAC action. The team was awarded the 2016 GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award for the third time in the past four seasons in a vote amongst the 12 GNAC head coaches. Freshman outside hitter **Lauren Pelletier** (South Windsor, Conn.) was also named to the GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



## SWIMMING & DIVING

The USJ swimming and diving team recorded a sixth-place finish at the GNAC Championships in December racking up a total of 303 points. They were led by sophomores **Annmari Masayda** (Watertown, Conn.) and **Veronika Lataweic** (Newington, Conn.) who posted 54 and 47 points, respectively, over the weekend. USJ went on to have five swimmers compete at the New England Intercollegiate Swimming & Diving Regional Championships who combined to break four USJ school records at the meet and post a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish out of 21 women's teams. Following the meet, Masayda was named to the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA) All-New England team for her seventh-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke. Additionally, the team earned the 2017 GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award.

## BASKETBALL

The USJ basketball team finished with a 9-16 overall record, and 3-13 mark in the GNAC under first-year head coach Brandon Gade during the 2016-17 season — a six-win improvement from the previous year. They posted a 3-13 mark in GNAC action. In their home and season opener, the Blue Jays defeated Bay Path 78-46, marking the fourth time in the past five seasons USJ has won its season-opening game. They finished third in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual USJ Tip-Off Tournament hosted inside the O'Connell Center and senior **Carlee Putnam** (Niantic, Conn.) earned All-Tournament Team accolades averaging 21.5 ppg and 5.0 rpg across two games played. Putnam also went on to be selected to play in the New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) Senior All-Star Classic following the conclusion of the season in March.



## LACROSSE

The USJ lacrosse team finished the season with a 3-10 overall record under first-year head coach Erin Doherty. They defeated Daniel Webster, 14-7, on the road behind an eight-goal, one-assist performance from junior attack **Hannah Lemek** (Bristol, Conn.) in their season opener. It marked the first time in program history the Blue Jays have won their season-opening game. Junior goalkeeper **Emily Bourassa** (Bristol, Conn.) posted 155 saves for USJ on the year, good for the second-most in the GNAC. Additionally, the team earned the 2017 GNAC Institutional Sportsmanship Award.



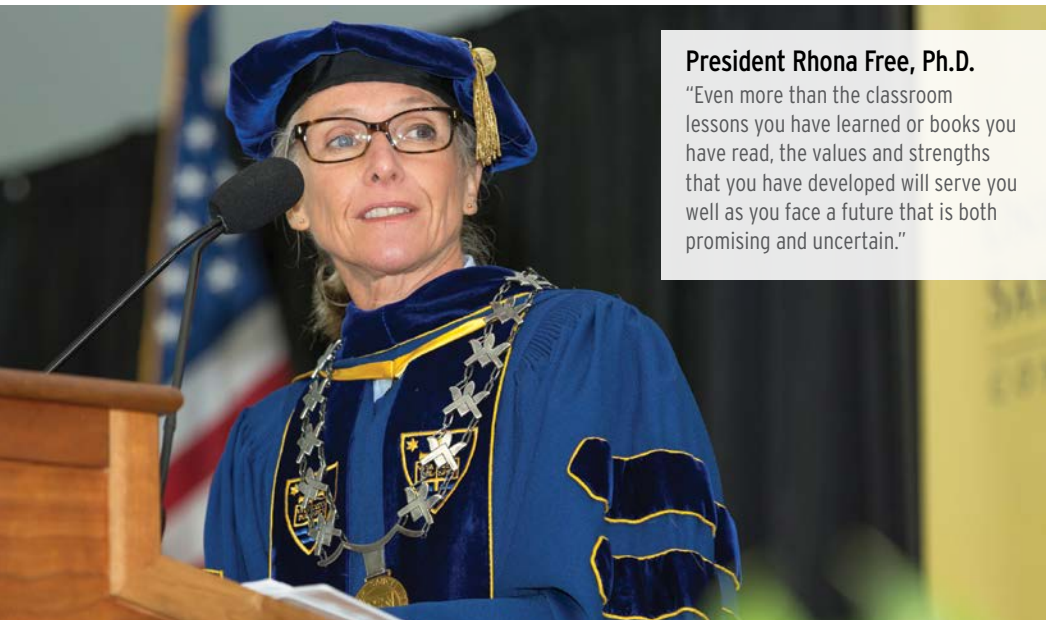




# COMMENCEMENT 2017

By Elizabeth Marone '15

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, the University of Saint Joseph held commencement ceremonies for its undergraduate and graduate candidates. Gathered in the heart of campus on Flag Pole Island, families and friends celebrated their graduates – first at the undergraduate ceremony at 10 a.m., and then at the ceremony for master’s and doctoral program at 3 p.m.



**President Rhona Free, Ph.D.**  
“Even more than the classroom lessons you have learned or books you have read, the values and strengths that you have developed will serve you well as you face a future that is both promising and uncertain.”



**Yovany Cruz '17 Undergraduate Speaker**  
“Blessed University of Saint Joseph Class of 2017, let us not leave with broken hearts, for the dark days are over. We’ve all passed the writing portfolio! We will continue to practice compassion. We will continue to be transformed. USJ, you have prepared us for tomorrow, so we will celebrate in the present, here and now!”



**Kimberly MacDougall Eaves, M'17 Graduate Speaker**  
“We have done the learning, spent hours in the classroom, and even more in front of our computers. And so, for each of us, it is now time to take action. Put your knowledge to work and effect change in your field.”



**Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Research Award: Dennis Barone, Ph.D.**  
“The winner of the first Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Award demonstrated a prowess for research and writing immediately at Saint Joseph. He has edited and written numerous books and articles, and has delivered presentations at some of the most prestigious conferences in the field.” – Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.  
*Dennis Barone, Ph.D., professor of English and American Studies, received the first Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Research Award.*



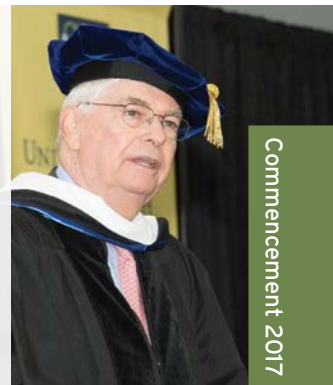
**Recognizing Excellence in Teaching: Ola Ghoneim, M.Sc., Ph.D.**  
“This professor is not only an excellent teacher and role model for her students, but also an accomplished scholar. She can frequently be found in her laboratory working with undergraduate and graduate students on cutting-edge research.” – Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.  
*Ola Ghoneim, M.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2017 Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award.*



**Joyce James, LMSW-AP, H'17 Undergraduate Commencement Speaker**  
“Unless we open our eyes, open our hearts, and work to change systems, a day like the one we are celebrating will never become a reality – not just for a few, but for all. Getting there requires our collective commitment to working to undo racism, and in doing so, we all regain our humanity.”



**U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd, J.D., H'17 Graduate Commencement Speaker**  
“Because of its history, its genesis, the very inspiration for the University, you leave here today with something far greater than a certificate attesting to your academic performance. You have received much more than that. You have been given the gift to make a difference, to dedicate at least part of your lives to making a positive and productive contribution to others. Indeed, in a sense, because you are a continuation of Catherine McAuley’s inspiration in 1827, you have a mission to do so.”





## CONGRATULATIONS, Toni Iadarola



On June 13, 2017, Antoinette (Toni) Iadarola '62, DAA'04, Ph.D., was honored for her outstanding eight-year tenure as president of The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall. A large gathering of friends and family came together to thank Dr. Iadarola and to recognize her contributions toward educating young women.

Trudy Ann Dickneider '68, M'73, DAA'06, Ph.D., chair of the Luralton Hall Board of Trustees, granted Dr. Iadarola a Luralton diploma and designated her *President Emerita* — the first in Luralton's history. Dickneider reflected on the significant impact that M. Consolata O'Connor, RSM, '39, USJ president from 1969 to 1984, had on Dr. Iadarola. Dr. Iadarola once said that Sr. Consolata "understood the transforming power of education and believed that each person was one of a kind. She encouraged us to pursue our own interests and celebrate our unique talents." In conclusion, Dr. Dickneider said, "I can think of no higher praise we can give Toni than to assure her that these same words describe her."

Dr. Iadarola arrived at Luralton Hall following a 16-year career as president of Cabrini College, where she oversaw a more than 100 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment and a tripling of undergraduates living on campus. The endowment grew from \$3 million to \$30 million under Dr. Iadarola's watch, and the Cabrini campus saw more than \$100 million in capital improvements.

Dr. Iadarola earned doctoral and master's degrees from Georgetown University, conducted postdoctoral studies as a Mellon Fellow at Yale University, and was a Fulbright Scholar affiliated with Oxford University and the London School of Economics.



# 2017 REUNION

CELEBRATING CLASSES ENDING IN 2 & 7

On Saturday, Sept. 16, alumni gathered on campus for the 2017 Reunion. Among other events, attendees were treated to a lecture and discussion on Michelangelo, led by Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, H'17, M.Ed. They also enjoyed the Service Learning Experience panel discussion, where they heard about current and former students' service experiences. The reunion luncheon brought classmates together with President Rhona Free, Ph.D., and a wine and cheese reception concluded the day's events.

"I love reunion. It is always such fun to sit and talk to my classmates. The years just fall away. I have to add that the campus looks beautiful. It is a good deal bigger than when we graduated but all the new buildings blend so beautifully with the original architecture."

- Barbara Abbatte '62

"Great to see Irene Blake Clark '57 again since we have known each other since first grade at St. Michael's School in Hartford. Nice for us to speak with Father Emmanuel seeing as he had been at St. Michael's. He gave one of the best Homilies on forgiveness that I have ever heard."

- Mary Lowery '57

"Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion was truly a singular event in our lives, giving us the chance to reconnect with classmates, revive memories of our years at SJ, recount the events of our lives, and recognize the accomplishments of our classmates over the past half-century. What a reflective and joyful celebration!"

- Joyce Narden '67

◀ Photos from top to bottom: Loida Reyes '92 and Raquel Scott-Cooper '92 enjoyed their 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Breakfast with Michele Maccarone Brophy '80, M'90, DAA'92; A group of alumni enjoy a ride around campus; Colleen Foohey Kenton '77; Mary Lowery '57 and Irene Clark '57, M'78, with a photo from their first holy communion; Class of 1967 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion; Class of 2017 takes a selfie with Joey the Blue Jay

## JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 13 – 6 p.m.  
**TriBeta 10-Year Reunion,**  
Rho Zeta Chapter

Saturday, Oct. 14 – 7- 10:15 a.m.  
**Hartford Marathon Volunteering on**  
Albany Avenue

Monday, Oct. 23 – 12 p.m.  
**University Update for Alumni with**  
President Rhona Free

Thursday, Oct. 26 – 6:30 p.m.  
**Homebuyers Symposium**

Monday, Oct. 30 – 5:30 p.m.  
**University Update for Alumni with**  
President Rhona Free

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – 12 p.m.  
**New Haven Area Alumni Gathering**  
The Graduate Club, New Haven

Wednesday, Nov. 8 – 12:05 p.m.  
**Chapel Bells Mass**  
The Connor Chapel of Our Lady

Monday, Nov. 13 – 5:30 p.m.  
**Madison, Conn. Area Alumni Gathering**  
Mercy by the Sea

Saturday, Dec. 2 – TBD  
**Fairfield Alumni Club Gathering**

Monday, Dec. 4 – all day  
**Cookie Packaging for Residents**  
of The McAuley

We hope to see you soon. For questions or registration information, please contact Tonja Russo at [trusso@usj.edu](mailto:trusso@usj.edu) or 860.231.5447.



# Imagine...The Sky's The Limit Honoring and Celebrating the Sisters of Mercy



IMAGINE...  
**THE SKY'S  
THE LIMIT**  
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

The University's seventh Gala was a festive celebration that honored the Sisters of Mercy. Throughout the evening, USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D., emcee Denise D'Ascenzo, and area leaders spoke about the contributions of the order that, 85 years ago, set out to create an institution that would provide women the opportunity to obtain a college education. It was the spirit, faith, and determination of the Founding Sisters that made the University a possibility in 1932, and it is the continued influence of those women, the Sisters who followed, and the order itself that has formed is the foundation of all that the institution does today.

Honorary Gala Chairwoman Jacqueline Marie Kieslich, RSM, president of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of USJ's Sisters: "The Sisters of Mercy at Saint Joe's, today, and throughout its history, have given their talents to create generations of leaders whose values are firmly rooted in the teachings of Catherine McAuley, who challenged us when she wrote, 'we should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.'"

The evening concluded with a very powerful and emotional moment. Lois Luddy '75, DAA'07, was featured in a video that shared her story about the impact that the Sisters of Mercy had on her life, including the kindness of one Sister in particular, Judith Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, Ph.D., DAA'16. Both women were present at the event, yet neither individual knew that the other would be there. Once the video ([www.usj.edu/Gala2017](http://www.usj.edu/Gala2017)) ended, Sister Judy and Lois made eye contact with one another from across the room. In a completely candid moment, they met in the center of the room and embraced, seeing one another for the first time in many years. It was a spontaneous demonstration of the impact that the Sisters have had on generations of USJ alumni. 🙏



CLASS NOTES

Keep the USJ community informed! Share news on your career, family, education, and more. Send your information for the next edition of *Outlook* magazine’s Class Notes to Elizabeth Marone ’15 at [emarone@usj.edu](mailto:emarone@usj.edu). Digital photos are welcome. Please note, your submission may be edited for publication purposes.

1944

**Ann Uccello ’44, H’71, DAA’78,** and **Margaret McNamara ’44** shared memories with Ann’s nephew, David Gustafson, while perusing their 1950 European adventure scrapbook. They recalled their travels on the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner with **Vincenza Uccello ’56, H’00, DAA’95,** and two friends, and visiting breathtaking sights throughout Europe. Ann and Vincenza also toured Rome, where they accepted an invitation to a semi-private audience with Pope Pius XII, who bestowed a special blessing on then Saint Joseph College.



1949

**Kathleen Barry Bruyette ’49, DAA’99, H’04, DAA’16,** and **Mary Christel Nolan, RSM, ’49, C’71,** enjoyed lunch in Elizabeth Park with President Rhona Free, Ph.D. They reminisced and caught up on their lives today. Sister Mary Christel teaches English as a second language and Mrs. Bruyette enjoys spending time with her large family.



1950

**Lois Welsh Jennings ’50** enjoyed a perfect summer afternoon with blue skies and a lobster roll near her home in Groton Long Point.



1958

**Gail Flaherty Sturdevant ’58** and her husband, Howard, enjoyed visiting the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and dining in Rozelle Court, near their home in Kansas City, Mo.



1959

**Marilyn Bowen Sagnella ’59** is a proud grandmother of 19 grandchildren, aged four to 24.

1962

**Judy Broggi LeSage ’62, Isabel Doerfler Richard ’62,** and **Pat Doba Hensing ’61** shared fond memories with Diane Thomas from USJ’s Office of Institutional Advancement, during an April luncheon at The Glen Club in Glenview, Ill.



1967

**Mary Connors Burnell ’67** traveled to Boston with friends, family, and fellow Alumni to cheer on the Red Sox.



1968

**Maura Sayers McGrath ’68, M’88,** visited with **Mary McGrath Wheeler ’73** in Boston to build a playground at the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester in memory of their niece, Victoria, a victim of the Boston Marathon bombing who passed away in a car accident in 2016. The McGrath family thanks all who participated in raising funds for the playground.

**Betty Sadowski Shepard ’68** proudly congratulates **Lindsey Hermann ’17,** the recipient of the Class of 1968 Endowed Scholarship, at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in May 2017.



1969

**Marilyn Bacon ’69, DAA’84, M.D.,** toured the newly-renovated Lourdes Hall with Carrie Walker, MPAS, M.S., PA-C, founding director of USJ’s Physician Assistant Studies program.



1971

**Kathie Wysocki Buchino ’71** visited the Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland for a week to learn about Sisters of Mercy founder Catherine McAuley.

1974

Classmates and “adopted” classmates from the Class of 1974 held mini-reunions in Baltimore in April 2016, Chicago in April 2017, and Cape Cod in August 2017.



Sitting, left to right: **Betty Miga Morrissey ’74, Joanne Marcantonio Crater ’74, Susan Keenan Fitzgerald ’87, Mary Dwyer Sarubbi ’74, Betsy Slavin Brown ’74.** Standing, left to right: **Mary Ann McCann Jones ’75, Christy Zarrella ’74, Laura Hogan Rozmus ’74, Anne Quirk ’74, M’79** (not pictured).

1975

**Margaret Slowick, OSF, ’75** was honored for her dedicated service at the Franciscan Federation Annual Conference in Buffalo, N.Y., on June 18, 2017.



1977

**Linda Estabrook ’77** spoke at PrideFest 2017 in Hartford on Sept. 9, 2017. Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Governor Dannel Malloy, H’12, were also in attendance.



**Claudia Alexander Reardon ’77** retired in June after 40 years as an elementary school teacher in the Torrington school system. She looks forward to traveling with her husband, Paul, and daughters, Megan and Kelly.

1979

Father Joe Cheah invited Gianna, daughter of **Rita Troy Weidman ’79,** to St. Ann’s Church to help him celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The parishioners organized a wonderful reception for him.



1983

**Mary Lovely ’83** enjoyed an 11-day Franciscan pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome.



1985

**Marilyn Fithian, M’85,** is the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

1987

In 2016, **Lisa Esposito Marisiddaiah ’87** was selected as a Great 100 Nurse of North Carolina and distinguished as a Fellow at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center’s FaithHealthNC.

1997

**Colleen Thompson, M’97,** was recognized as the 2017 Kathleen Magowan Simsbury Teacher of the Year for her exemplary work as a music educator and her continuous support of students with special needs.

2004

**Michelle O’Connell ’04** accepted a position with Pride Market Stores. She will serve as store manager of the new travel center in Hartford.

2005

**Rita Bayer ’05** welcomed her first grandchild and future USJ alumna, Paige Elise Bayer, on Aug. 7, 2017. Born premature at 3 pounds, 5 ounces, Paige is healthy and growing.

2011

**Gianna Gurga ’11,** Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, was named 2017 Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Teacher of the Year in Wallingford, Conn.

2012

**Danielle Randall ’12** got engaged to Louis Paolillo in February 2016. The couple will wed in August 2018.

2014

**Patricia Nolan Rivera ’14** and her husband welcomed a baby boy in June 2017.



**Danielle Ellsworth Upton-Pepin ’14** and her husband welcomed their son in June 2017.

Moxie Dance Company, founded by Meghan McDermott, features USJ alumnae **Zoe Allard ’14, M’17; Chelsea Chiappa ’14; Mary Gollan ’14, C’15; and Patrice Hayes ’14, M’16.** Celebrating the strength of women through dance, Moxie performs throughout New England and frequently works with the USJ Dance Ensemble.



Photo credit: Rich Davis “Nasty Women”

2016

**Danielle Brochu ’16** is currently pursuing her MSN with a concentration in Nursing Education at Sacred Heart University. She hopes to teach at USJ as a clinical instructor.

**Jasmine McLean ’16,** who is enrolled in USJ’s MSW Program, served as MSW Student Council co-president and organized, designed, and implemented the first MSW hooding ceremony on May 11, 2017. 🎓



**Patricia Ennis Booker '72, M'80**, moved to Houston, Texas 38 years ago and rarely returns to campus, but she has many fond memories of her time at then Saint Joseph College. Five years ago, she returned for her reunion and reconnected with the places and people who had an impact on her during her formative college years.

In particular, Patty is grateful that USJ broadened her educational base, exposing her to new ideas. Art history classes with Professor Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, H'17, M.Ed., helped to develop a love of art that has led Patty and Mike, her husband, to become serious collectors of contemporary art.

Recently, Patty and Mike started the Booker Family Foundation and she realized that her gift to USJ could be not only an expression of her gratitude to the professors at USJ, but an investment in the future.

With a recent gift to USJ's scholarship fund, Patty and Mike were able to support two young women who would not be able to attend USJ without financial aid. Patty was delighted to receive profiles of these two young women and learn a little bit about them. Mitchel Jobble '18 mentioned the importance of being educated in a Christian environment, a factor that resonates meaningfully with Patty. Victoria Draper '20 is grateful to the Bookers for bringing her one step closer to "achieving my dreams as an educator, a novelist, and an explorer of cultures!" Both students talked about the importance of small classes and professors who take the time to get to know their students and encourage excellence. For Patty, professors like these allowed her to achieve academically, grow, and thrive.

Mike and Patty created The Mike and Patty Booker Endowment for Melanoma Research at MD Anderson Cancer Center to support world-class medical research in perpetuity. They established The Booker Family Foundation to create another type of legacy: to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals. They believe that their contributions to education can be a catalyst for lasting and positive change. When we talk about legacies, we talk about people like the Bookers. 🙏

# Across the Miles, An Alumna Reengages with Her Alma Mater



## IN MEMORIAM

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

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>ROSE M. SPONZO '41</b><br>September 10, 2017                  | <b>MAXINE B. SPITZLER '54</b><br>August 11, 2017         | <b>ELIZABETH A. AUGER '79</b><br>April 3, 2017              |
| <b>RITA FAGAN POWERS '44</b><br>April 3, 2017                    | <b>JUSTINE SIERACKI SERENCH A '60</b><br>August 15, 2017 | <b>ANNE HIGGINS LEWIS, M'82</b><br>March 18, 2017           |
| <b>MARGARET DONAHUE BERNARD '47</b><br>December 23, 2015         | <b>CAROL BARNIAK JOHNSON '62</b><br>July 7, 2017         | <b>ESTHER R. BARTLETT, M'86</b><br>May 29, 2017             |
| <b>GENEVIEVE O'HARA-HENNESSEY SMITH '47</b><br>September 3, 2017 | <b>ESTHER DORA ZIEGLER, C'61</b><br>July 13, 2017        | <b>ALICE C. BARNHART, M'87</b><br>April 23, 2017            |
| <b>ANITA SMITH, RSM, '47, M'84</b><br>September 4, 2017          | <b>PATRICIA LINDBERG MAHER '62</b><br>March 28, 2017     | <b>PATRICIA DELANEY PIANKA '91</b><br>June 17, 2017         |
| <b>MARIE VAILLANCOURT WIERBICKI '47</b><br>March 18, 2017        | <b>SUSANNE DANDLEY MCNAMARA '63</b><br>April 22, 2017    | <b>SYLVIA BARTHOLOMEW ROTHERFORTH, M'91</b><br>July 9, 2017 |
| <b>MARY McDONOUGH ROSEHILL '48</b><br>No date reported           | <b>PATRICIA LAKE ST. JOHN '64</b><br>December 5, 2016    | <b>ANN T. REARDON, SSJ, M'92</b><br>June 10, 2017           |
| <b>JANET MCCARTHY O'BRIEN '50</b><br>March 16, 2017              | <b>MARY A. BOUTILIER '66</b><br>April 15, 2017           | <b>THERESA DAUNIS MORGADO '95</b><br>June 3, 2017           |
| <b>JANET HART SMITH '50</b><br>February 1, 2017                  | <b>ELEANOR COURTNEY BURNS A'67</b><br>March 11, 2017     | <b>CAROLYN GREEN BLOUIN '96</b><br>June 2, 2017             |
| <b>BARBARA BRETT WHITE '52</b><br>February 6, 2017               | <b>BARBARA LUPACCHINO SYCZ '68</b><br>September 11, 2017 | <b>JOHN L. FLANNERY, H'99</b><br>June 24, 2017              |
| <b>BETTY ANN RAFFTERY COUGHLIN '53</b><br>July 11, 2017          | <b>DOROTHY STANTON HANSELL, M'70</b><br>June 18, 2017    | <b>SHEILA GARTNER SAXE, M'03</b><br>September 10, 2017      |
| <b>MARY KINSLEY KALINOSKI '54</b><br>July 31, 2017               | <b>CAROL A. DeVITA, M'74</b><br>April 3, 2017            |   |

The next Chapel Bells Mass will be held at 12:05 p.m. on November 8, 2017 in the Connor Chapel of Our Lady. If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact Rita Bayer '05, stewardship coordinator, at 860.231.5462 or rbayer@usj.edu. 🙏



# Alumnae Team Up on Artistic Endeavor

In partnership with the Office of Institutional Advancement, two alumnae, **Shannon K. Mazurick '08** and **Cheyenne Baskowski '17**, have created a coloring book that tells the story of the founding of the University of Saint Joseph.

Inspired by the incredible accomplishments of Catherine McAuley, Mazurick recalls the story of McAuley's life. Beginning with her childhood, through the founding of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland in 1841 and the creation of Mount Saint Joseph College in 1932, McAuley's legacy continues to be a touchstone for the University today. Mazurick is the author of six previous books and earned the title Ms. Wheelchair Connecticut 2017, which is an advocacy title.

During her undergraduate years, Baskowski was well-known for her artistic talent. Approached to create the illustrations for the coloring book, she carefully researched the life and times of Catherine McAuley and worked to bring the story to life with her drawings. Having recently earned her B.A. in Art History, with a minor in Psychology, Baskowski plans to pursue a career in Art Therapy or a related field.

To order a complimentary copy of *Catherine McAuley, The Sisters of Mercy, and the Founding of the University of Saint Joseph*, call Cristina Southward at 860.231.5291 or email [csouthward@usj.edu](mailto:csouthward@usj.edu).

2017 Freshman Writing Contest Winner, Creative Writing: Gissel Campos

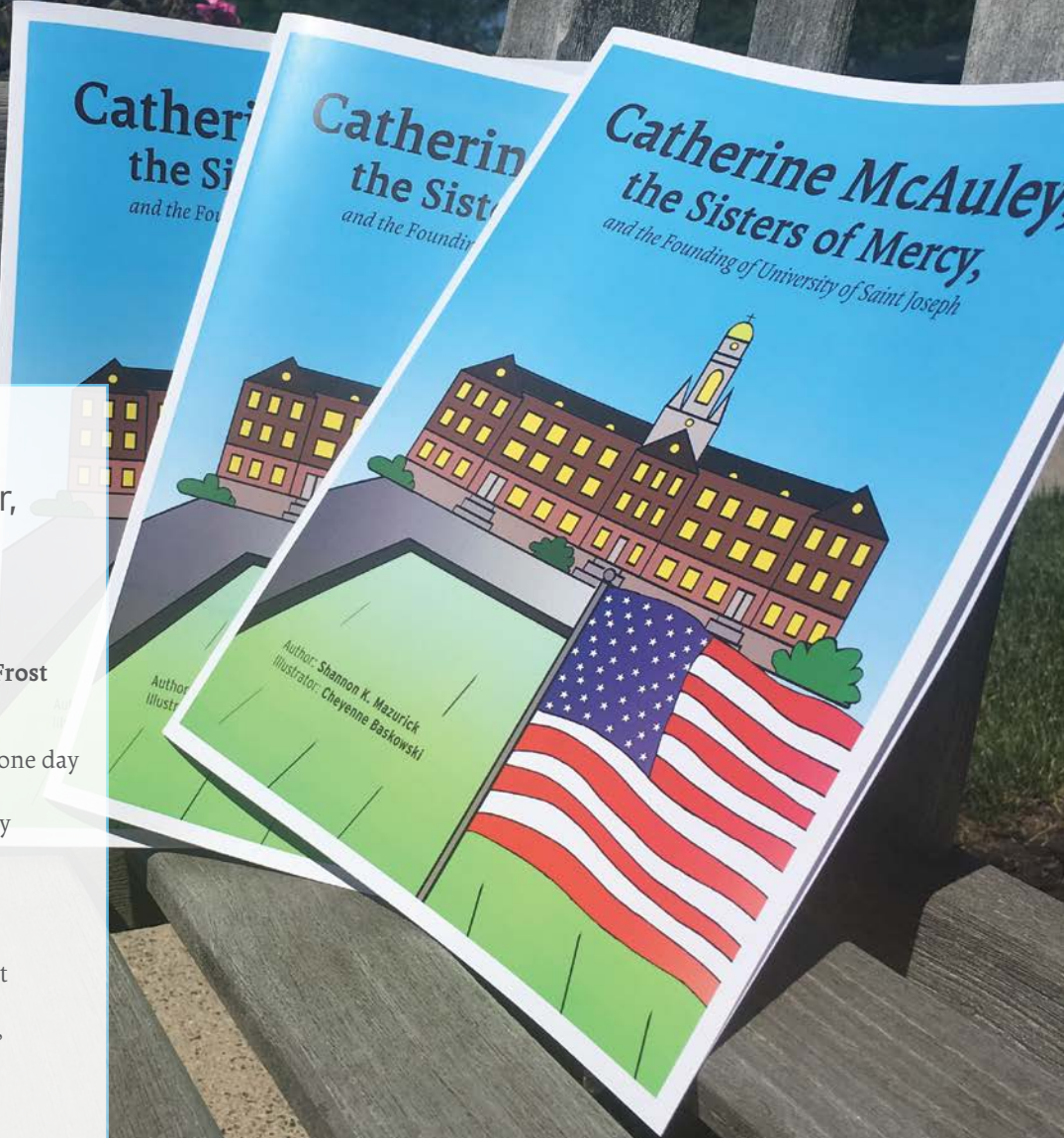
### Reflections in the style of Robert Frost

I came across a little pond  
When walking through the woods one day  
Its tranquil waters called to me  
And begged for me to come and stay

I peered into the peaceful pool  
And saw that peaceful it was not;  
It rippled with uncertainty  
And left me feeling quite distraught

For in that makeshift looking glass,  
I could not see my face nor hands  
Instead, reflected back at me,  
I only saw the world's demands

I shall not look away until  
I stop conforming to their will  
And love myself for who I am  
And so indeed I sit here still



## UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH The USJ Fund

### Victoria Thai '17

Vicky is very grateful for her college education at USJ that wouldn't have been possible without support from the USJ Fund. Having just completed a 10-week Fuller Fellowship at Yale University, a research opportunity through the American Cancer Society, Vicky is now fully immersed in preparing for the MCAT exam in hopes of attending medical school in the fall of 2018. The American Cancer Society receives hundreds of applications annually for Fuller Fellows and chooses only eight fellows. The applicants selected are placed in labs at leading New England research institutions, such as teaching hospitals, universities, and medical schools, to conduct research.

While a student at USJ majoring in Biology, Vicky was a four-year athlete, a member of several honor societies, and completed an independent study with Biology Professor Chris Zito, Ph.D. Vicky was examining the effect of natural compounds in chemotherapy treatment, aiming to increase the quality of life for individuals affected by lung cancer. "Vicky is one of our all-stars at Saint Joe's. It was my pleasure to guide her through her independent study. To watch Vicky take charge of the research, gather data, and work independently was a joy," says Zito. According to Professor Zito, the beauty of a small institution like Saint Joe's is the unique relationship that can develop between faculty and students. This sets a foundation when considering an independent study, so that it aligns a student's interest, coursework, and career goals. "It is wonderful to see students like Vicky go after their dreams and to see them benefit from all the greatness Saint Joe's has to offer," says Zito.

"USJ provided me with the skills I needed to get to the next level. I know in my heart I would not be where I am today had it not been for my time at USJ. I felt like each professor knew me, saw my potential, and helped guide me. I am confident that had I attended a larger school, I would not be the person I am today. Thank you, USJ, for all you have done."

### GIVE TODAY TO THE USJ FUND

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Office of Institutional Advancement  
1678 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

Call 860.231.5364 or

Email [giving@usj.edu](mailto:giving@usj.edu)

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## 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](http://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 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission: FREE



**Past Progressive // Future Perfect**  
Recent Acquisitions and Promised Gifts  
**September 15 - December 17**



### Family Day

An afternoon of museum-based games and activities for families with children from preschool through fifth grade. This event is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, November 5**  
**1 - 3 p.m.**

THE **AUTORINO**

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PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

[WWW.USJ.EDU/ARTS](http://WWW.USJ.EDU/ARTS)

### Red Baraat

Friday, December 1, 8 p.m.

Premium Seating: \$30, General Seating: \$25

Seniors, USJ Staff, Alumni, and

Let's Go Arts Members: \$20

Autorino Members and Students (non-USJ): \$15

Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 5x5 Contemporary Dance Festival

Saturday, November 4, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

75-minute Master Classes: 10 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

General: \$15, Students: \$10

Creative Dance Films with Artistic Talk:

1 - 2 p.m. (A/V Room) - Free

Premium Seating: \$25, General Seating: \$20

Autorino Members and Students (non-USJ), Seniors, USJ

Staff, Alumni, and Let's Go Arts Members: \$15

Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum

Festival Pass: \$50, Two-Show Pass: \$30



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