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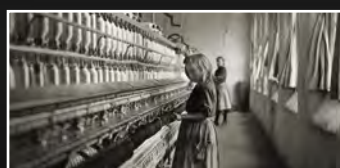
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# OUTLOOK Magazine



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

Fall  
2016

## Celebrating Our Distinctiveness

CHALLENGE  
CURIOSITY  
INSPIRE  
EMBRACE  
INNOVATE  
EXCELLENCE  
EMPOWER  
SUCCESS  
CREATIVE  
DISTINCTION  
IMPACT  
EXCEPTIONAL  
CONNECTIONS  
CONFIDENT  
ASPIRATIONS





Jeanne Marie  
Hunciker '45

# A Legacy of Appreciation and Education

Throughout her life, **Jeanne Marie Hunciker '45** supported the University of Saint Joseph in noteworthy and enduring ways. It was, in large measure, a response to the significant influence that Saint Joseph College had on her life — especially her love of teaching.

Hunciker, who passed away a year ago, earned a bachelor's degree in History from Saint Joseph College in 1945. She later earned a master's degree from Trinity College, and Administrative Certification from the University of Hartford.

A devout Catholic, she believed deeply in the Mercy Mission. She adored Saint Joe's, for what it meant in her life, and for the impact it had on succeeding generations of graduates.

Her intellectual gifts were intertwined with civic involvement and professional accomplishments that distinguished her among educators in this region, and amidst those whose high standards and ideals were exemplary.

A well-respected and admired teacher and administrator in the Hartford Public Schools for more than 40 years, Hunciker is recognized in *Who's Who of American Women*. She taught at Bacon Academy until 1950, and then was appointed to the History Department at Hartford Public High School. In 1972

she became District Social Studies Chairperson for Hartford Public High School and Quirk Middle School and was later appointed Social Studies Chairperson for the three high schools in Hartford.

Three special friendships, established at Saint Joseph and nurtured afterwards, led to travels and time spent on Block Island, across Europe, and elsewhere. Helen M. Lynch '41, Lois M. Colli '45 and Jeanne Hunciker shared a middle initial, and wonderful times. They were joined, through the years, by Lucy Zocco, a former student of Jeanne's. Ms. Zocco fondly recalls Jeanne's impressive Dalton figurine collection gathered from various travels.

Ms. Zocco also reflects on Jeanne's devotion to the University of Saint Joseph.

## Making an Enduring Difference

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"Jeanne always came back for events, because she felt honored to be invited. She was extremely appreciative of the education, and the educators, at Saint Joseph," her friend explained. "Her focus was always how she could make the world a better place by influencing children's lives."

Ms. Hunciker's bequest is a reflection of that appreciation and philosophy. A member of the Golden Dome Society and a consistent donor throughout the years, her bequest will help succeeding generations of USJ students to extend their own impact and influence for years to come. The expansion of Lourdes Hall, which will house the Physician Assistant program (see page 6), is among the initiatives that will be supported by her gift and a space within the building will be named in her memory.

Hers was a lifetime of civic involvement, determined leadership, and devoted service. Organizations including the Mercyknoll Board of Trustees and the Connecticut Council on Economic Education were among many that benefitted from her remarkable dedication.

Our abiding gratitude goes to Jeanne Marie Hunciker, for remembering the University of Saint Joseph with such benevolence. Her gift will continue to resonate as her memory is honored. Jean's legacy, a lifetime passion for education and civic life, will forever echo through individual lives and the life of the entire USJ Community. 🙏



## OUTLOOK Magazine Fall 2016

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**OUTLOOK**  
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# In this issue

For bonus photos and content, go to Outlook Online: [www.usj.edu/outlook](http://www.usj.edu/outlook).

## Features

- 3 Celebrating Our Distinctiveness
- 6 Holistic Approach to Healing Drives New Physician Assistant Studies Program
- 8 Actuarial Science Concentration: Preparing Students for Challenging Careers in High Demand
- 12 Health Care Coordination: Certificate Program Provides Career Path
- 14 Inauguration of President Rhona Free, Ph.D.
- 18 Leading Corporation Provides Real World Business Experience for USJ Students
- 21 Commencement 2016
- 24 New Business Management Tracks Focus on In-Demand Career Opportunities
- 28 Imagine ... The Sky's The Limit Gala: Celebrating 50 Years of Innovation — the Gengras Center School

## Stories

- 5 RN to B.S. in Nursing Online
- 10 Restorative Justice
- 17 Melina Dezhbod '17
- 26 STEAM
- 27 Art Museum
- 30 50 Years of Gengras Center School
- 31 New Trustee: Sr. Betty McAuliffe
- 32 Initiatives for Student Success
- 33 Nutrition/Physical Fitness Camp
- 44 End Note

## Highlights

- 11 Federal Nursing Grant
- 13 Niche Ranking
- 16 Symposium Day | BRAVE
- 20 Numbers Worth Repeating
- 34 Campus Snapshots
- 36 Blue Jay Sports
- Alumni News
- 37 Charlene Russell-Tucker '85
- 39 Reunion 2016
- 40 Class Notes
- 42 Roselee Barbagallo Fanelli '61, M'66, DAA'11



Dear Friends,

As I write this in my office in Mercy Hall, we are enjoying a spectacular summer day in mid-October. The maples in front of the Chapel are colored brilliant red, yellow, and orange, but it is a sun-drenched 82 degrees and students are traipsing to class in shorts and flip flops. Some are sticking to their plans in advance of mid-term exams, studying in groups in front of McGovern, while others have been tempted by the new sand volleyball court and Frisbee golf course and are enjoying a few minutes of relaxation between classes, internships, and field work.

Apart from being the only women's undergraduate college in the state, among the characteristics that makes USJ distinctive is the beautiful, pastoral campus only two miles from the headquarters of global corporations and major medical facilities.

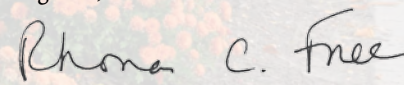
Our students can have breakfast in McGovern and then catch the bus on Asylum Avenue to their internship at Hartford Steam Boiler, the Legislative Office Building, or the Wadsworth Atheneum, to student teaching at a Hartford public school, or to Saint Francis Hospital, Hartford Hospital, or the Malta House of Care to apply their nursing skills.

The University's long-recognized strengths include rigorous pre-professional academic programs with a strong foundation in the liberal arts, expert faculty, and a commitment to Mercy values. More recently, though, the significance of the University's emphasis on applied learning and the opportunities for experiential education afforded by being so close to a major city are becoming more widely recognized. Few colleges combine the benefits of such a location with a long history of applied learning in offices, hospitals, clinics, and schools.

USJ's Mercy commitments to community involvement and personal integrity are seen each day in the work of students, faculty, and alumni, and shine brightly in the continuing commitment of the Gengras family to USJ, which began with the establishment of the Gengras Center School. For 50 years, generations of students have benefitted from that commitment, as generations of the Gengras family have demonstrated that people of good will can have a profound and meaningful impact on individual lives and our entire community.

I invite you to read, reflect, and respond with your own observations. Share your thoughts via email to [outlook@usj.edu](mailto:outlook@usj.edu). USJ's distinctiveness is a spirited work in progress, and together, we will write the next chapters.

Regards,



Rhona C. Free, Ph.D.  
President

## President's Insights

# Celebrating Our DISTINCTIVENESS

By Bernard L. Kavalier

**The University of Saint Joseph stands out for all the right reasons.** Academic rigor. Advancing opportunity. Developing leaders. Exceptional scholarship. Robust community connections. Enthusiasm for career-enhancing experiential education. Those elements are all plainly evident, and they reflect a distinctiveness that has earned USJ – and the university's graduates – a reputation for excellence.

The student pledge, recited at USJ's annual Convocation, references a "community which promotes the development of the whole person, strong ethical values, personal integrity, a caring environment, a sense of responsibility to the needs of society, and a commitment to developing the potential of women."

That commitment influences and informs a rigorous curriculum led by faculty members who possess superb professional credentials and a devotion to teaching. Their engaging academic programs ensure USJ's strength and vitality, attracting undergraduate and graduate students and earning high regards outside the campus community/well beyond the campus green.

USJ offers an expanding range of degree options at the undergraduate and graduate level. New programs launched in recent years are impressive — and quite successful, both for the University and its students. They include Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice, B.S.; an RN to BSN, B.S. online program; and a Biology/Bioengineering B.S. as a Dual Program with Fairfield University. Other new programs include the Health Care Coordinator Certificate; Business Management tracks in Sports Management, Not-for-Profit Management, Healthcare Management and Marketing; and a Concentration in Actuarial Science in the Mathematics Department.

The University is recognized in Connecticut and nationally for its pioneering work in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Nursing, Nutrition and Dietetics. It was recently ranked among the Best Colleges in Connecticut by the education website



Niche, which noted that the school provides “good value, attracts a diverse student body, and offers an exceptional college experience.”

Innovation is present at every turn, with more to come, as USJ continues to develop a challenging curriculum in varied disciplines, responsive to workforce needs and driving student success.

The differentiating modular scheduling approach used in the School of Pharmacy in downtown Hartford, highly praised by students, is to be replicated in the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program when it launches on the University’s main campus.

Modular curriculum design — an emerging educational approach — has certainly brought stellar results in the School of Pharmacy, where 98.2 percent of graduates passed the North American Pharmacy Licensure Exam on their first attempt in 2014, and 99.6 percent of students were retained between 2014 and 2016.

The distinctiveness of USJ is evident not only in academic programs, but also in physical and structural changes, such as bringing together the Center for Academic Excellence, Academic Advisement Center, and Career Development Center under one roof. Another example — the PA program will be housed in newly-built, state-of-the-art facilities in the renovated and expanded Lourdes Hall.

Bricks and mortar are seen most readily, but only tell a portion of the USJ story.

**“What makes USJ distinctive are the supportive faculty and staff,” recalls Nicole Battistone ’15, a School of Humanities and Social Sciences graduate. “During my time at USJ, I was pushed to test my limits and step out of my comfort zone. The faculty and staff at USJ are invested in having students succeed and they definitely helped me succeed.”**

Experiential education has quickly become a hallmark of the USJ curriculum, from the undergraduate level through the career-enhancing graduate programs.

“USJ is in a perfect place to enhance these opportunities, by creating additional programs that align with existing industries and areas of growth,” USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D., said a year ago. The University has been following through on that vision with precision and enthusiasm.

USJ routinely offers students — whether undergraduate or graduate students — opportunities to become leaders, transforming aspirations into experiences.

“The University of Saint Joseph is unique in the way it incorporates leadership skills into almost every facet of campus life,” emphasizes Jo-Mari Lopez ’16, reflecting on her undergraduate experience. “USJ teaches us that we are capable of being strong leaders in and out of the classroom. I am so grateful to have attended a school that brought this out of me.”

USJ’s location, minutes away from a thriving West Hartford Center and the state’s Capital City also brings attractive benefits. “Today’s students want and need to engage in the external community — through internships, community service, and co-curricular activities,” points out President Free. “Hartford has all those opportunities and they align with our programs in the Health Sciences, Social Work, Education, and more.”

USJ also provides a range of programs to extend career expertise, likely an element in The Economist ranking USJ first in the state and 13th in the nation for exceeding the salary expectations of graduates.

Among the most recent examples — a four-course sequence of undergraduate courses in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) that began this fall. From navigating professional interactions to

improving organizational functioning in work settings, the curriculum provides students with the background necessary to succeed in their field. Students pursuing a range of majors — in any field working with people — can benefit from the courses, from Business/Management, Criminal Justice, Public Policy/Advocacy to Nursing, Public Health, Family Studies, and Social Work.

The coursework also gives sufficient background, along with additional hours of supervised experience, for students to sit for the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst examination (BCaBA).

USJ’s commitment to access is also ever present. From a federal Health Resources and Services Administration-funded Nursing scholarship program to the reduction in room and board costs announced earlier this year, to the elimination of housing amenities fee, and free on-campus housing for Hartford Promise students, the tangible and enduring benefits of a rigorous USJ education is increasingly within the grasp of prospective students. 🏡



## Online Program Responds to Professional Need for RNs to Earn Bachelor’s Degree

By Bernard L. Kavalier



The nursing landscape has shifted dramatically in recent years, and those practitioners lacking a bachelor’s degree are not only at a career disadvantage, their current job may be at risk without the academic credential.

Hospitals and health care facilities, as well as agencies that elevate them, are cognizant of research that indicates better patient outcomes when nurses have a bachelor’s degree, and hiring practices are being revised accordingly, becoming more selective.

That is why nurses who have yet to earn a bachelor’s degree are looking for ways to do so, while maintaining current employment and often balancing family commitments as well. Responding to the pressing need, the University of Saint Joseph has successfully launched a fully online RN to B.S. in Nursing degree program, now beginning its second year.

The full time, one-year accelerated program (part-time options are also available) offers the same outstanding USJ faculty as the traditional on-ground program, in a convenient online format that has been described as “the most efficient path to earning your B.S.”

Katie Love, Ph.D., director of the RN to B.S. online program, explains that the program prepares nurses to deliver effective, evidence-based health care and builds on knowledge already accumulated in practice. Love explains that even though the students in the online classes are in physically disparate

places, the collegiality and camaraderie of a classroom exists nonetheless.

**“We have authentic interactions, real exchanges and collaboration online. We still maintain a holistic, multicultural program with mentoring and support among students and faculty,” Love emphasizes.**

“USJ’s RN to B.S. in Nursing program is flexible for nurses working full-time,” agrees Monica Leone, RN, a student in the class of 2018. “The professors are supportive and inspiring, while challenging you with the true issues of today’s nursing world! I love having the opportunity to learn from other nurses through discussion boards. I truly feel like I am part of a team here!”

Clinical experiences in program tracks are arranged in collaboration with health care leaders, keeping in mind the student’s area of focused study. Students will have already earned an associate’s degree prior to entering the bachelor’s degree program at USJ. It is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), approved by the Connecticut Board of Examiners in Nursing, applies cultural competencies as defined by the American Association of Colleges

of Nursing (AACN), and promotes National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS Standards).

Patricia Padula Morgan, Ph.D., RN, CNE, chair of the USJ Department of Nursing and associate dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences, explains that the RN to B.S. in Nursing was developed after interest in such a program was expressed consistently by nurses determined to advance their education and ultimately, their careers. USJ offers guaranteed acceptance for Connecticut Community College Nursing program graduates.

This year, more than a dozen students, many from the Hartford region, began the online program, which offers courses in 8-week modules. Nearly two-thirds of students are individuals of color, or are bilingual. The coursework makes use of videos and a range of electronic technology, includes group work online, along with document sharing and discussions, as well as an experiential component in the field.

USJ’s stellar reputation in the field across the region makes the program a welcome addition to the USJ nursing portfolio. The online program provides tremendous flexibility for working nurses, and reaction has been positive from students, faculty, and administrators. Given the shifts well underway in health care and across higher education, it is likely to grow. 🏡





*Sitting with Rebecca Austin, MS, PA-C is Carrie Walker, MPAS, MS, PA-C, the founding director and chair for the department of Physician Assistant Studies.*

## Holistic Approach to Healing Drives New Physician Assistant Studies Program

USJ Ideals Are Great Fit for Carrie Walker and Connecticut

Heeding the advice of a neighbor changed the course of Carrie Walker's life. When the adolescent Walker shared her plans to pursue a career in health care, her next-door neighbor — employed at a nearby hospital — replied, "Consider becoming a physician assistant," a vocation that Walker had never heard of.

That good guidance was the impetus to her highly successful career, leading the ambitious and determined teen to ultimately complete an undergraduate degree in Health Sciences, a master's in Physician Assistant Studies, and a second master's in Emergency Medicine.

After pursuing a clinical practice as a physician assistant, while maintaining a full-time teaching load in the field, she assisted the successful development of a Physician Assistant program at Bryant University (Rhode Island), before joining USJ as the founding director and chair for the Physician Assistant Studies program (PA Studies program) slated to launch in January 2017.

USJ's new PA Studies program is characterized by a unique modular curriculum, the only program of its kind in the region. The approach is modeled after the format utilized very successfully by USJ's School of Pharmacy. Students will enroll in one program course at a time, allowing for complete focus on mastery of clinical sciences specific to each organ system, with opportunities to begin integrating and applying concepts embedded throughout the curriculum.

The knowledge and critical thinking skills developed during the 15-month didactic curriculum will prepare students to excel during the 13-month clinical phase of the program when they will complete nine, five-week Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences and participate in activities designed to prepare them to enter clinical practice. It is a rigorous 103-credit curriculum, where students can apply accumulated knowledge and excel.

A study of the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce projects a 32-percent increase in the number of PAs needed between 2012 and 2022. Increasing services delivered by PAs is seen as an essential element in the state's strategy to keep pace with a projected shortage of primary care physicians in Connecticut.

"The PA Studies program is very mission-centered and responds to a community need for improving health care. It is a perfect fit for USJ, and complements our existing programs," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. "I know the graduates that we prepare will be ready to make a difference in their communities and contribute to the health care system."

Walker's expertise in clinical practice and in the classroom forged her heartfelt philosophy of patient care. "I believe in a holistic approach to healing: treat the whole patient, not just the disease," she explains. "Working as a PA in the emergency room not only honed my skills, it enabled me to see the feelings, including the fears, of patients. That interpersonal piece must become a focus. It's the essence of service."

It is anticipated that at full capacity, 165 students will be enrolled in the program, comprised of three cohorts with 55 students each. Students will earn a master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree, a solid foundation for an attractive and rewarding professional pathway. The PA Studies program will collaborate with the portfolio of USJ academic programs in the health-related professions; among them Nursing, Nutrition, Pharmacy and Social Work.

With an emphasis on compassionate care, Walker's approach to health care melded seamlessly with the Mercy tradition that has become an integral part of teaching and learning at USJ, and is reflected in the structure of the PA Studies program.

"Right from the beginning, I felt it was a great fit," says Walker. "The Mercy ideals of social justice are very real. I find it very meaningful to help put students into health care who are highly skilled with a commitment to personal integrity and a responsibility to society."



## Renovation, Construction of Lourdes Hall Readies Home for PA Studies Program

To accommodate the new master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program that launches in January 2017, the University of Saint Joseph is in the midst of completing a \$4 million capital renovation and expansion of Lourdes Hall at the center of campus. The dynamic project includes renovation of 6,330 sq. ft. of existing space and new construction of a one-story, 4,760 sq. ft. addition, directly to the east of the current structure.

The finished space will create an innovative Active Learning Center, designed to prepare PA students to provide skilled, 21st century health care. The Center will be outfitted with state-of-the-art technology and mobile seating/workspaces to maximize configurable, interactive options, that seamlessly shift from traditional lecture to "think-pair-share" for small group learning, a key element in the program's educational environment.



For decades the full-time residence for Sisters of Mercy and focal point of the University's heritage, Lourdes Hall became temporary office space in recent years for a succession of University departments as construction took place at other points on campus.

When the construction concludes later this year, the new PA Studies program will utilize the renovated and expanded first floor, with faculty offices included on the second floor, providing for the needs of students and their instructors. Additional USJ faculty and staff will be located on the second and third floors.

The renovations reflect a significant investment in the academic and professional advancement of hundreds of PA students and professionals, who will impact thousands of lives through their delivery of high-quality care in hospital, primary care, and specialized settings throughout Connecticut.

The addition of a PA Studies program to USJ's portfolio of academic programs — and its placement in Lourdes Hall — is an extension of USJ's enduring Mercy values as evidenced by a mission to provide a rigorous professional education that promotes individual growth through strong ethical values, personal integrity, and a sense of responsibility for societal needs.

As the health care industry grapples with changing community needs and rising costs, PAs have emerged as one effective solution to an ever growing demand for a skilled workforce. USJ's new PA Studies program will be the only such program in the Greater Hartford region, and it will be housed in a first-class facility that places quality education at the heart of the academic experience.



# Actuarial Science Concentration: Preparing Students for Challenging Careers in High Demand

By Bernard L. Kavalier



Call it the Hartford Advantage. In the Insurance Capital of the World, perhaps more than any other place on Earth, Actuarial Science is unquestionably a field in which a very successful career can take root and flourish. Suggesting that the University of Saint Joseph is located at the epicenter of the actuarial universe may not be overstating reality.

Best described as mathematics aptitude enmeshed with business acumen, the latest addition to the USJ academic portfolio brings high expectations and unconcealed enthusiasm. Actuaries apply mathematical, analytical, and business skills to solve financial challenges, developing models that estimate the financial impact of risk and uncertainty. Practitioners are often

critical members of management teams in insurance companies, financial institutions, health care industries, and government agencies.

Actuarial Science is a promising career not only in Hartford, but just about everywhere. It consistently sits atop the list of jobs with the highest pay and most job satisfaction, and recently was ranked as the best job for women and one of four occupations with zero unemployment nationwide. No wonder it has instantly attracted attention at USJ.

"Businesses value quantitative skills and analytical skills," which are central to the new Actuarial Science concentration, explains Ekaterina Lioutikova, Ph.D., chair of the department of Mathematical Sciences. "It is multi-faceted and interdisciplinary, and not theoretical but very specific in its application." The concentration brings together mathematics, statistics, computer science, economics, and finance.

The decision to launch the new academic concentration responds to the inquiries of students who excel in math and seek

career options divergent from teaching, as well as the entreaties of businesses in the financial services industries seeking well-prepared graduates. The Actuarial Science concentration promises to be a win-win for students and the community. For students with a passion for math but uncertain how to channel it, Actuarial Science may be precisely the right outlet.

"Our mission as a university is to support young women in reaching their potential," Lioutikova noted. "Women tend to be underrepresented in mathematics fields, and Actuarial Science is an excellent career with significant advancement opportunities." The unwavering support of President Rhona Free, Ph.D., and Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., has been indispensable in moving the new concentration forward.

Students will begin by taking an initial course in Calculus (a three-course sequence), Probability and Statistics (a two-course sequence), and other core courses such as Discrete Mathematics, Computer Programming, Economics

and Accounting. They take the first specialized actuarial science course in the spring of their sophomore year, Actuarial Problem Solving, which focuses on applications of probability and statistics to risk management. That is designed to prepare them to sit for their first actuarial exam in the spring/summer before their junior year.

The expectation is that the curriculum will prepare students for the first two of the series of professional exams required for credentials in the field, to give their careers a jumpstart by having "two exams under their belt when they graduate," Lioutikova said.

Students will graduate with a B.S. in Mathematical Sciences with a concentration in Actuarial Science, an attractive combination for employers. The program consists of 36 credits in Mathematical Sciences and 15-18 credits in supporting courses, a comprehensive curriculum that will prepare students for the business environment in which actuaries actually work.

The opportunities for internships are anticipated to be plentiful. A number of leading locally-headquartered companies offer very structured and extremely competitive internship programs which act, in effect, as a months-long job interview. Many of the internship experiences turn into job offers after graduation. The expectation is that USJ students will earn their way first into internships and then into career-starting positions.

The concentration's placement within the department of Mathematical Sciences is deliberate. Lioutikova explains that Actuarial Science programs at colleges across the country often reside in business schools, but hiring companies tend to prefer the in-depth preparation and specific skills that programs housed within mathematics departments provide their students. "The stronger quantitative aspects and problem-solving are in demand" among employers, she stresses.

Raouf Boules, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health & Natural Sciences, is convinced that USJ and Actuarial Science are a perfect fit, and he speaks from experience. He built a now-thriving Actuarial Science program while at a previous higher education institution and brims with confidence inspired by the "unique geographic position" of USJ, amidst insurance companies, banks, and other businesses that are constantly seeking top talent in the field. The seriousness with which USJ students approach their education bodes well for a dynamic and successful program.

As the field continues to evolve, Boules points out, the specialty of "predictive analytics" is becoming an area of expertise increasingly attractive to businesses.

"Students can apply the techniques of mathematics and probability to assess risk in many industries, including all the specialties of insurance." The ability to compute and analyze big data, while also possessing sound communication skills in both written and oral components provides opportunities to stand out in the workplace.

The overall curriculum follows the recommendations of the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society, the two largest professional actuarial organizations in North America. At USJ, the well-rounded liberal arts education that teaches critical thinking and communications skills complements the Actuarial Science concentration nicely.

With the active involvement of Marion D. Griffin, a member of the USJ Board of Trustees, the finishing touches are just about in place for an Advisory Board for the program, with professionals in the field poised to guide curriculum development, advise faculty, and serve as mentors to students. Griffin, a chartered financial analyst for more than two decades in the retirement and investment industry, is recruiting members. Boules and Lioutikova are tremendously appreciative, emphasizing that Board members will bring a network of contacts and vast reservoir of experience that will be a big advantage for the program and its students.

As the Actuarial Science concentration unfurls in the next few years, Boules expects it will become a drawing card for prospective students who will take notice of a career characterized by consistently high job satisfaction, job security and strong salaries, and the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to business decision-making. Already, local companies have been very supportive, and are looking forward to the first cadre of interns and graduates, Lioutikova reported, well aware of USJ's outstanding academic reputation. 🏆





# ANSWERING THE CALL FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

By Elizabeth Marone '15



From her early days as a public defender to specializing in high-profile criminal cases at her own law firm, Kathleen M. Mullin, J.D., has maintained a passion for law and justice throughout her 25-year career. Her experience has taken her from courtrooms to television as a legal analyst and trial commentator, and to law schools teaching as an adjunct professor.

Mullin once again uses her legal experience to better the next generation of criminal and social justice workers as the director of the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) new Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice program.

"I love to empower my students to find joy and fulfillment in their studies and to impart the wisdom that I've gathered along the way," says Mullin. "It's a very symbiotic relationship. It's something that I truly enjoy and which reenergizes my creativity, my spirit for the law, and my lifelong commitment to justice for all."

Through her leadership of this program, Mullin emphasizes the importance of real-world experience for students interested in this field. Offering intern- and externship opportunities with businesses and organizations in the area, USJ's Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice program focuses on providing first-hand experience in order to allow students to discover their passions.

Those experiences may include correctional institutions and community courts, alternative high schools and police departments, public defender's offices and the Office of the Victim Advocate.

"I hope to cultivate opportunities and allow USJ students to experience something that may light a fire in them to seek justice," says Mullin, who discovered her passion for law during her courtroom experience as a law student.

Courses are offered during early evening hours or online, making them more accessible for prospective students currently in the workforce. The interdisciplinary curriculum will draw on USJ faculty expertise in criminal justice, victimology, social research, psychology, and law/ethics, developing a comprehensive and cutting-edge experiential program.

In the past, the criminal justice system has focused solely on crime and punishment. Heavily favoring incarceration, the U.S. is now the leading jailer worldwide, with one-in-four American adults holding a criminal record. However, there is a national shift towards restorative justice underway on the national, regional, and local levels today, including in Connecticut.

This approach breaks the previous mold, and responds to mass incarceration by offering individuals opportunities

previously considered inconsistent with the criminal justice system.

Determined to go beyond merely punishment for one's actions, restorative justice works on teaching acceptance, healing, growth, and reintegration, which falls in line with the Mercy values. The field focuses not only on the needs of victims and the responsibilities of the offenders, but also on the roles played by the community and government. By learning and practicing restorative justice's ideals, Mullin hopes students gain a passion for this approach through their work at USJ.

"In this program, whether you leave to become a nurse, a social worker, or a lawyer, I want you to take with you a deep understanding that there is no 'us' and 'them.' There is only us. We must work together to find new ways to heal and restore us all."

## Federal Grant to Support USJ Outreach to Prospective Nursing Students

The University of Saint Joseph will be receiving \$930,000 in funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to create scholarships dedicated to underrepresented students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

USJ is initially awarding seven scholarships of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per year for four years to assist exceptional female students studying full-time for a B.S. in Nursing, beginning this fall. Additional scholarships will be offered to deserving students in the future, with a total of 17 planned using the HRSA grant funding.

In addition to the tuition scholarships, the participating students are to receive peer or near-peer mentoring, weekly student/faculty advising sessions, supplemental instruction, and workshops. Serving as project director, Patricia Padula Morgan, Ph.D., RN, CNE, chair of the department of Nursing and associate dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences, will provide oversight and coordinate the various aspects of the innovative academic initiative.

While this grant is specifically for direct entry into the undergraduate nursing major, USJ also offers pre-Nursing, online, accelerated, graduate, and DNP programs in one of the region's most highly-regarded nursing programs.

"Providing opportunity for students to enroll in our nationally recognized nursing program is integral in developing the next generation of nurses," added Raouf N. Boules, Ph.D., dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences. "Equally important, these scholarship recipients will reinforce the mission of our Sisters of Mercy founders by serving medically underserved communities during their clinical rotations."



"The rising cost of college is of primary concern to students, their families, and this institution, so we are especially thrilled to be able to offer several significant scholarships to well-qualified students," said University of Saint Joseph President Rhona Free, Ph.D. "Such an investment will benefit not only these students, but our campus and our community."



# HEALTH CARE COORDINATION: Certificate Program Provides Career Path with Goal of Improved Patient Care

By Bernard L. Kavalier



“The trend in patient care is to establish an effective bridge from acute care to care at home,” observes Sandra Affenito, Ph.D., University of Saint Joseph associate provost of Academic Affairs/dean of Graduate Studies and Research. With a highly-regarded public health program, the newly launched 12-credit certificate program in Health Care Coordination at USJ was a “natural fit.”

“There is a demonstrated workforce need,” she continued, “and it is fast becoming an excellent career path,” Affenito explained. “The concept of helping patients to navigate the health care system to ensure a continuity of care is increasingly recognized as essential.”

The department of Nutrition & Public Health, within the School of Health & Natural Sciences, established the certificate program, open to all majors but particularly attractive to students in Public Health, Social Work, and Nutrition.

USJ aims to educate graduates to be effective liaisons between patients, community agencies, and health care organizations to increase

preventative care and use of primary care providers, and to decrease use of Emergency Departments, unnecessary hospitalizations, and poor health outcomes. The goals are directly in line with USJ’s Mercy mission.

“We train students to meet people where they are,” explains Katie Martin, Ph.D., assistant professor of Nutrition and Public Health. “Students learn to recognize the social determinants of health, such as language barriers or lack of transportation, which can impact care. It is an interdisciplinary program for students, a holistic approach to responding to patients.”

A relationship with Saint Francis HealthCare Partners has already led to the first intern placement for a USJ student interested in health care coordination. Lindsey Stefens, a senior Public Health major, is enthusiastic about the internship and the career possibilities.

“It is the clinical side of public health,” she explains, stressing that she was not aware of the role of a health coordinator, or the relatively new facet of the health

professions, before the internship possibility was shared with her by Director Martin.

“I love it!” Stefens exclaims, convinced the USJ program will be a “great success,” because “there is a real need for these skills. People with health concerns need people they can talk with, to help them navigate the system so that they don’t end up right back in the hospital. This program, and especially the internship, will prepare students for jobs that can really help people, teaching these skills before graduation.”

In the early weeks of her semester-long internship, Stefens quickly learned two software programs in order to research patient records and compile data for use by the team at Saint Francis. Knowing when someone last had a colonoscopy, for example, could be key to alerting them to the need to do so again, as a preventative measure to provide early detection of colon cancer.

Stefens is particularly looking forward to the second phase of her internship,

when she will accompany members of the Saint Francis team on patient visits, in individuals’ homes.

“I’ve learned that preventative care is not just about their medical condition. It is about the social determinants as well. Maybe they can’t afford the transportation cost to get to a doctor’s visit. Or there are other concerns in the family. When I look at the data and see that they are frequently coming to the hospital, the question is why.”

Figuring out why, in meeting with and working with individual patients, is key to preventative care, and what the burgeoning field of health coordination is all about.

Khadija Poitras-Rhea, LCSW, is Director of Care Coordination & Population Health Management at Saint Francis HealthCare Partners, leading the hospital’s growing professional team and coordinating the internship program.

Saint Francis is moving aggressively to integrate the new approach, and the internship is part of the effort. Stefens has been tremendously impressed with the varied backgrounds the Saint Francis multi-disciplinary team offers.

Poitras-Rhea says the internships will be of value to students in a range of majors, who look to “establish rapport” with patients and get a glimpse of an increasingly indispensable career.

The certificate program includes a seminar course to integrate past coursework and prepare students for their internship experience. Upon completion, students will have learned to assess and screen patients for chronic disease, health risks and appropriate community services, evaluate patient understanding of healthcare needs using cultural humility, and identify resources available for patients.

In addition, students will develop expertise to use motivational interviewing skills to help patients, act as advocates for the patient and family along the continuum of care, and establish relationships with patients, providers, health insurance agencies, and community partners.

The program is already proving attractive to prospective and current students. They may, in moving through the curriculum, see themselves as pioneers, forging a new path to achieve better patient care and improved health outcomes. 🏥

## USJ Earns Top-10 Status in Niche’s “2016 Best Colleges in Connecticut”



“This grade takes into account key factors such as the strength of the academic programs, the aptitude of professors, the quality of campus amenities, the general character of student life, as well as student reviews in an attempt to measure the overall excellence of the college experience.”

The University of Saint Joseph ranked sixth in Niche’s listing of Best Colleges in Connecticut, described as an “elite academic institution that provides good value, attracts a diverse student body, and offers an exceptional college experience.”

Niche calculates statistics and student reviews into one overall ranking. USJ was listed just behind fifth place Connecticut College and ahead of Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven, Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Hartford. Yale University topped the list.

According to Niche’s process:

Since its founding in 1932, USJ has set itself apart with a rigorous liberal arts education that prepares students for professional success. The USJ educational experience is distinctive in the way it empowers young women and prepares them for leadership careers through an array of innovative undergraduate academic programs. USJ also connects 95 percent of all students (undergraduate, graduate, and adult) to high-impact learning opportunities, including internships and experiential and clinical experiences.

This is not the first time that USJ has gained national notice. The Economist has ranked USJ first in the state and 13th in the nation for exceeding the salary expectations of graduates.

Niche, founded in 2002 by Carnegie Mellon University students as CollegeProwler.com, has become one of the largest content startups in the country. 🏠



# PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

## OF RHONA FREE, PH.D. NINTH PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) community gathered to welcome its ninth president, Rhona Free, Ph.D., with a two-day Inauguration celebration this past spring. As the sun shone outside on April 15, trustees, faculty, staff, students, and members of the community filled the Connor Chapel of Our Lady to witness this momentous occasion in the University's history.

The ceremony began with a procession of University faculty and students, followed by a joyous performance from the Gengras Center School Choir and a gift of flowers presented to President Free by two students from the School for Young Children.

Governor Dannel Malloy addressed the congregation, offering words of praise for USJ: "It is a shining star; it is a great institution that has given of itself and, in so giving of itself, has lent tremendous talent to the state of Connecticut."

In her remarks, President Free expanded upon the University's strengths and how they are rooted in USJ's continuing dedication to the values put forth by the Sisters of Mercy.

"At the University of Saint Joseph our mission is clear: the University offers a rigorous liberal arts and professional education with a strong commitment to developing the potential of women. Our core values, which include expression of the Catholic tradition, Compassionate Service, Integrity, and Diversity, are reflected in everything we do."



◀ Photos L to R/T to B: President Rhona Free's family cheers along with the congregation as she is called to the podium; Dr. Free delivers her Inauguration speech; a night of Celtic music and dance to celebrate President Free's Scottish heritage and the Irish heritage of the Sisters of Mercy; Gengras students deliver a beautiful song of inspiration at the Inauguration ceremony; students, faculty, and staff participate in the Highland Games; Emma Gimose presents her poster to President Free and Ivan Edafiogho, Ph.D., Pharm.D., R.P.H., at Symposium Day; President Free receives a gift of flowers from School for Young Children.





# STUDENT SUCCESS ON SYMPOSIUM DAY

By Elizabeth Marone '15



The President's inaugural celebration shined a spotlight on more than 150 students, who presented a range of research projects on Symposium Day. Dynamics reversed, undergraduate, graduate, and pharmacy students assumed professorial roles, sharing their research results with an interested and engaged audience of USJ faculty, staff, and fellow students. After months of dedication, students sparked lively discussions with their material, spanning an array of subjects.

From Safa Mohamoud Saleh '17, who shared her research on endometrial cancer, to Elizabeth Hatzenbuehler M'16, who presented on increasing

sociodramatic play skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the University's students showed their commitment to academic excellence.

"It was a huge learning process, but by completing this project with the guidance of Dr. Molteni, I was able to have hands-on experience with what Applied Behavior Analysis is all about," Hatzenbuehler explained. "To actually go through the process from start to finish yourself makes your learning of the material much more significant."

Similarly, mentorship was also at the heart of Saleh's research: "My research project was a reflection of my interest

in Biology, specifically cancer research, which mainly stemmed from having a great professor and mentor, Dr. Irene Reed."

Symposium Day also offered students the chance to break out of their comfort zones and push themselves to new heights. This was the case for Jenna Kotlyarenko '18.

"I am not usually one for public speaking, but I had great people in the crowd supporting me and two topics I was passionate about," she said.

Bringing together students from various disciplines, the day displayed students' hard work and resulting success, and provided a glimpse of the caliber of research and ingenuity that characterizes USJ students. 🏆

## Growing Locally, Helping Globally

By Elizabeth Marone '15



The USJ chapter of BRAVE Girls Leadership Inc. (BRAVE) participated in a week-long coin drive in February for the "Send a Girl to School" campaign, which raises money to help girls in developing countries continue their education.

Founded in 2013 by Meaghan Davis, a former Conard High School (West Hartford) Social Studies teacher and the current Academic Success Coordinator at USJ, the organization

has grown to encompass chapters from nine local schools, ranging from elementary and middle schools to high schools and colleges. Each chapter works to achieve self-empowerment among its participants and develop leadership skills while providing mentorship opportunities for young men and women and support for social justice issues locally and globally.

"I truly believe in the goodness of all students and I aspire to help each of them realize their own full potential," Davis explained. "I continue to be inspired every day by the words, actions, and stories of courageous people, especially girls, around the world fighting for change."

The coin drive at USJ, led by dedicated student ambassadors, including Shelby Mehmet '19, raised enough money to send four girls to school for a year. In total, all nine participating schools raised \$6,600, which will send 20 girls to school in developing countries. Mehmet, who met Davis during the 2015 Mercy Bridge program, felt drawn to the club and its mission.

"I knew that being involved in BRAVE would allow me a chance to make a difference," Mehmet said. "It has opened my eyes to the importance of a quality education."

BRAVE held the "Send a Girl to School" coin drive again this October. 🏆

## LEAVING A LEGACY OF EMPOWERMENT

By Elizabeth Marone '15



While emigrating with her family from Iran to America at age five, Melina Dezhbod '17 saw true generosity and kindness in action. Receiving help from others along their journey altered Dezhbod's life, ultimately inspiring her to study Social Work at the University of Saint Joseph and pursue a profession through which she can help others in return.

"It is my life's mission to help as many people as I can," Dezhbod explained. "I want to save, change, and inspire other families, just as others have done for my family."

To achieve her goals, Dezhbod chose to attend USJ. Her college experience began the summer before her freshman year when she took part in the inaugural year of the University's MERCY Bridge program. A preparation program for incoming students, MERCY Bridge provides participants with a month-long introduction to college life. From summer courses to residence hall experiences, students get the chance to learn about the campus, its services, and its opportunities before their first year begins.

Confident that she was prepared to pursue her goals, Dezhbod

began her quest to make a difference as soon as the semester began. Determined to add to female empowerment on campus, she developed an event focused on the inner beauty she saw in the people around her every day. Through meetings with Student Affairs staff and President Emerita Pamela Trotman Reid, Ph.D., the annual True Beauty Celebration was born. The event, which has grown each year, is now a staple for students on campus, earning a large audience and dozens of participants every February, while contributing to the sense of community and acceptance throughout the University year-round.

"The event attempts to redefine society's definition of beauty and to provide women with an outlet to support other women," Dezhbod stated. "We want to build a community that shows everyone that they are beautiful, special, and capable of amazing things."

In addition to the Celebration, Dezhbod embodies the message of empowerment in her daily life. She has become a respected student leader on campus — a role she felt inspired to undertake after her own positive underclassman experience. A resident assistant during her sophomore year and a peer mentor for the University's Sophomore Outdoor Adventure Resident (SOAR) program the following year, Dezhbod has enjoyed being a part of these young women's lives.

"The best part of student leadership is seeing my residents and mentees grow, find themselves and their passions, and become leaders themselves," Dezhbod said. "It is an amazing chain of women inspiring other women and helping one another become the best we can be."

After graduation in May, Dezhbod plans to attend USJ's MSW program before entering seminary school and becoming an Episcopalian priest and a hospital chaplain. Just as USJ prepared Dezhbod for her college career, she now feels prepared for her professional career.

"USJ has taught me that I am capable of so much more than I ever imagined for myself," she explained. "The wonderful opportunities and the inspiring faculty, staff, and fellow students have shown me that anything is possible when I believe in myself, work hard, ask for help, and never give up." 🏆

## MERCY Bridge

The University welcomed a group of 11 incoming first-year students in July for the fourth MERCY (Making an Entrance, Readiness for the College Years) Bridge program. Funded by a grant from the Connecticut College Access and Success Program, MERCY Bridge creates a supportive community in which students build the skills and confidence that will lead them to success in college and beyond.



# Leading Corporation Provides Real World Business Experience for USJ Students

By Bernard L. Kavaler



From Ken Provencher's vantage point, as a father of three children now grown and in the workforce and a supporter of the internship program at Hartford Steam Boiler (HSB), where he is Senior Vice President of Underwriting, experiential learning is a significant step in colleges' preparation of students for careers.

Through his dedicated interest, the University of Saint Joseph and HSB have formed a relationship that has brought a USJ student to the company in each of the past three summers, including one recent graduate hired by HSB to launch her career.

Provencher and USJ have a history. His wife attended the college, as did their two daughters, one as an undergraduate, the other earning her master's degree. When asked to serve as an Ambassador for the university, he readily agreed.

One of the opportunities he saw was the chance to include USJ students as summer intern candidates, to "help them decide if this is the career they want."

Including USJ among the roster of participating colleges has worked out superbly, Provencher explains. The students have been impressive —

dedicated, determined, and eager to dive into the business world and take on new challenges. The Mercy mission of USJ, and the character and integrity it fosters in students, is reflected in their outlook and approach.

From the outset, Provencher seeks to identify intern candidates who "want to contribute to the organization," and "aren't afraid to share their ideas." Students who know how to do research effectively, to listen attentively, and who "want to be challenged and involved."

Through time spent in demanding paid internships, students begin to understand "what it is like to work in a corporation" and "grow their skill sets," which could help immensely when they enter the job market. "They become more of a known quantity" for those making hiring decisions.

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co. has been an acknowledged industry leader in equipment breakdown insurance for 150 years. With an array of coverages — including data and cyber risk, employment practices liability, and identity theft insurance — HSB has one of the largest engineering and inspection series forces in the world. The company — based in downtown Hartford — is part of Munich Re, the Germany-based international reinsurance company.

HSB has had a history with USJ, too, as senior management has served on the USJ Board of Trustees. Most recently, Jeanne Merola, a Senior Vice President at HSB, was on the USJ Board from 2003 through 2014, including leading the Board as Chair (2008 – 2014). She is now a Trustee Emerita.

The HSB internship program provides a series of educational sessions that provide an overview of property and casualty insurance, explore innovation in the workplace, discuss the potential of LinkedIn to launch and advance careers, and examine individual work styles and how to work effectively with individuals of differing work styles.

It is a desirable opportunity to learn, first-hand, the day-to-day responsibilities required of those working at one of the world's leading corporations. What it is not, Provencher explains, is "grunt work." He takes a serious interest in ensuring that students contribute to the company in ways that are needed and necessary, not just filling time and filing folders.

The first USJ intern at HSB, Samantha Joerg '16, a Psychology major, spent two summers at HSB and impressed everyone with her analytical skills, drive, and talent. This year, interviews were conducted with eight USJ students — all of outstanding caliber, which made the selection process difficult.

For Elena Colaci, a senior Business Management major from Waterbury selected for the internship, her interest in the intern program at HSB was driven by a desire to "gain as much business experience as possible."

As the application process began, she was uncertain what an internship with a global corporation would involve, or even what to expect in the interview process. It turns out that the daily duties of a corporate intern are "definitely" not what she pictured.

"It's not just sitting at a desk all day. I'm constantly talking with people to get information I need for the projects I'm working on," she explains. She also collaborates on some projects with fellow interns, who attend colleges throughout the region and beyond, and appreciates the camaraderie that quickly developed.

Provencher, whose 37-year career has been with HSB, notes that USJ students hold their own and then some. "The skill sets they bring are impressive. They are focused on their work, communicate effectively, and respond succinctly."

Provencher praised the leadership of USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D., to continue the University's participation in the program, and the efforts of Wayne Steeley, Ph.D., dean of the School

of Liberal Arts and Eric Chen, J.D., professor of Business Management, as well as colleagues, to spread the word and encourage students to step forward.

**"With the vast majority of USJ students completing a pre-professional internship, clinical placement, or field work before they graduate, we know what is critical to creating experiences that are educational for the student but that also provide value to the host organization," observed President Free.**

"The on-site supervisors make all the difference — students can be well-prepared and have the right skills, but a supervisor who sets clear expectations, provides guidance and mentorship, and treats the student like a professional is essential. Mr. Provencher and his staff do that, so we are incredibly pleased when our students earn internships at HSB."

Provencher cares about the excellence of the intern experience, and says the company and each intern will benefit most when diligence is present on both sides. He believes in students' ability to contribute productively.

That was particularly evident regarding Heather Framski, a 2015 Business Management graduate of USJ from Prospect, CT. Framski had hoped that the summer between her junior and senior years would be spent in an HSB internship. Although Provencher recalls that she impressed all those who interviewed her, she was not selected.

A year later, however, when she began to consider where to apply for her first job after college, a job opening at HSB seemed unlikely. "Why would they hire me for a job if they didn't select me for an internship," Framski recalls thinking,

But encouragement from Professor Chen led her to give it a try nonetheless, and after an extensive interviewing process, she was hired. Now beginning her second year as a Profiling and Rate Filing Analyst within the Underwriting Department at HSB, Framski is pleased with the job, confident in her work, and gains high marks and much praise from Provencher and colleagues.

One of her responsibilities is preparing and defending insurance regulatory filings for multiple lines of business. It is work that requires precision and thoroughness, and an understanding of the nuances of the differing laws in various states. She is also responsible for analyzing and summarizing large quantities of data, a task that gave her the opportunity to utilize and improve her programming knowledge while relying on her USJ-instilled organizational, accuracy, and timeliness skills.

It is a job that she had never heard of, and could barely describe to friends who asked, when she was hired. Not only has she developed a detailed understanding that is now relied upon by co-workers, she has discovered that much of her USJ classwork has been "extremely useful."

Provencher has high praise for her work ethic and know-how, and she exudes enthusiasm for the corporate atmosphere at HSB, where colleagues respond with "even more than I need." All of which advances her knowledge, and her value to the company.

Colaci describes herself as a person not predisposed to asking many questions, but the internship experience has demonstrated the importance of inquisitiveness — and speaking up — as a means of learning. "I've stepped out of my comfort zone, and asked questions. People have been incredibly helpful. They are constantly following up, to be sure I have everything I need, and fully understand the project I'm working on."

"Being here has helped me decide. I was undecided about business. Now I know what I like," Colaci declared definitively. 🐾



# NUMBERS

# WORTH REPEATING

11:1

Student-faculty ratio at USJ; providing students with many ways to collaborate with faculty, achieve success in rigorous academic programs, and excel.

92%

of USJ students have a significant pre-professional workplace-based experience before they graduate.

#1

USJ's ranking among colleges in Connecticut when *Economist* magazine ranked higher education institutions based on students' actual earnings after graduation, compared with what would have been expected. Of 1,275 American colleges, USJ was 13<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation.

#6

in *Niche's* listing of *Best Colleges in Connecticut* USJ was described as an academic institution that "offers an exceptional college experience."

95%

of USJ graduates are employed full-time or are in graduate school within six months of graduation.

27

Graduate programs provide opportunities to earn advanced degrees necessary in today's dynamic workplace, featuring quality teaching, expert faculty, and flexible schedules, online and on-campus.

30%

of the women on the *Businessweek* list of "Rising Stars in Corporate America" are women's college graduates.

1/3

of the *Fortune* 1,000 female board members graduated from single gender institutions.

1

Number of Catholic womens' undergraduate colleges in New England

1

Number of womens' colleges remaining in Connecticut

26 & 42

The number of undergraduate majors and undergraduate minors offered at USJ, giving students flexibility to develop an academic program responsive to their interests and passions, and a myriad of opportunities for experiential education in numerous career fields.

81%

of women's college graduates say their college was extremely or very effective in helping prepare them for their first job, compared with 65% of public college graduates.

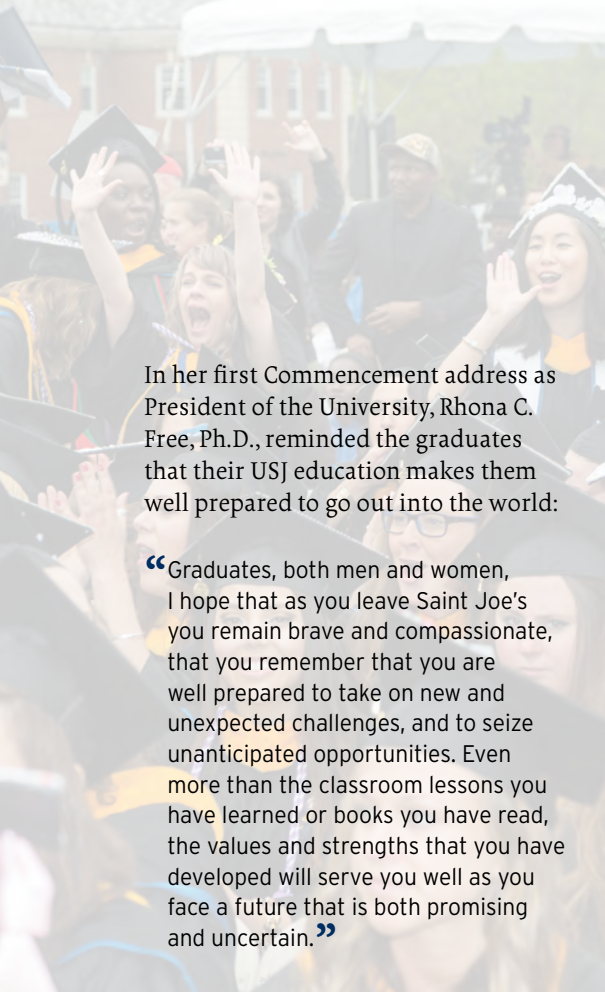
# COMMENCEMENT 2016

By Patti-Ann Barry



On Saturday, May 7, 2016, for the first time in 81 years, the University of Saint Joseph held separate Commencement ceremonies to accommodate the 550 undergraduate and graduate candidates. Families and friends gathered in front of McDonough Hall at 10:00 a.m. to recognize the accomplishments of the undergraduate class and at 3:00 p.m. for the master's and doctoral classes. As the audience for each ceremony cheered and applauded, their expressions of joy and pride were clearly evident as each of the graduates who attended Commencement accepted their well-deserved diploma. Even the rain that fell as the undergraduate procession began — as if on cue — could not dampen spirits. After all, it was a day of celebration!





In her first Commencement address as President of the University, Rhona C. Free, Ph.D., reminded the graduates that their USJ education makes them well prepared to go out into the world:

“Graduates, both men and women, I hope that as you leave Saint Joe’s you remain brave and compassionate, that you remember that you are well prepared to take on new and unexpected challenges, and to seize unanticipated opportunities. 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.”



OUR STUDENT SPEAKERS

“These four years have given us the chance to look at the world differently, whether we studied Chemistry, Management, or English. This is not just applicable to our chosen fields, in our 9-5 jobs; looking at the world through a new lens encourages us to observe more carefully, to understand more deeply, and perhaps transform what is familiar and ordinary into something fresh and beautiful. It compels us to be present and fully engaged in our own lives.”

– Alison Pascale '16, Undergraduate Speaker



HONORING TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

**Suzy Whaley, H'16**  
*Undergraduate Commencement Speaker*  
*Secretary of the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA)*

“Engage in choices that bring your talents to the forefront and allow you to succeed. Find and surround yourself with others who share your goals and dreams, encourage you to reach for more, and support you when you fall. Positive people create positive lives and each day is a blessing to be cherished and celebrated. Commit to giving to others just for the joy that they receive. You will find your spirit in giving. It will open your heart to those in need and create gratefulness in you.”

– Commencement Address



“We are probably asking ourselves what is next, what lies ahead. Like most of you, I want to mentor others and serve as a role model for those who may wish to start on this journey but feel it is an impossible goal – one that is out of reach for them. We are proof that it is important to dream and with the help of faculty, staff, family, and friends, our goals are achievable.”

– Valencia Chicoine '16, Graduate Student Speaker

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: MARK ZELINSKY, PH.D.

“‘This respected faculty member, always generous with time, teaches and mentors undergraduate students at the University,’ ultimately helping them find and believe in the power of their voices.”

– Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.

Mark Zelinsky, Ph.D., associate professor of English and chair of the department of English, received the 2016 Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award. 🏆







# NEW BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRACKS FOCUS ON IN-DEMAND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

By Bernard L. Kavalier

Business management is a career path with many forks in the road – choices on how to proceed, which area of specialty to pursue, where to develop expertise, and how best to begin a successful professional career.

Led by current faculty, and taking advantage of superb internship and experiential education opportunities in the region, the University of Saint Joseph is beginning four new tracks that data indicate will be especially attractive to prospective students.

The four tracks are health care management, not-for-profit management, sports management, and marketing — all areas with growing job opportunities in the Hartford region and well beyond.

With an aging population — Connecticut is already the 7th oldest state in the nation — health care, and the management of health care, is quickly becoming a critical aspect of the field, with new opportunities opening up regularly in a wide range of businesses and organizations. USJ's long-standing expertise in health care fields, including Nursing, Nutrition, and Pharmacy, and a graduate certificate program in Healthcare Systems Management, reflect a commitment to prepare students for these much-needed careers.

The growth of professional sports, and its impact as the nation's economy rebounds, also brings exciting opportunities for those with an interest in sports and a background in management. Connecticut has invested in the field, with financial support provided to ESPN and NBC Sports, both with a growing footprint — and a sizable workforce — in the state. Opportunities exist in sports economics, finance, and information management, such as marketing.

Not-for-profit organizations increasingly turn to effective managers to navigate a challenging fiscal landscape, as demand for services grows, especially during times of government cutbacks at the state and federal level. Working with a not-for-profit often means doing several jobs in addition to the one you were hired for, which can help young employees become well-rounded professionals who can add value to any type of organization. Such a career path is of particular interest to USJ students whose abiding interest in service to the community reflects the University's Mercy mission.

"These new tracks provide an opportunity for focused use of internships," points out Daniel Nussbaum, Ph.D., dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, "and can effectively help prepare students for careers."

Undergraduate students will usually decide on which track they'd like to

follow by their junior year, in time to seek credit-bearing internships (either three or six credits) that are required of all students but are particularly promising for those with specific coursework as a prelude to meaningful experiential education.

"Students are required to have an internship — that's one of our trademarks," Nussbaum indicates, stressing that the "integration into the academic curriculum" of the field experiences can be particularly valuable when students enter the job market upon graduation.

**"What makes the programs unique is that they all include an element of entrepreneurship and leadership, and that's really critical," points out USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D. "It doesn't matter what type of organization you're joining, everyone now has to be entrepreneurial and think about new ways of delivering programs, meeting customer needs, and presenting services in the marketplace. That is why each of these tracks has a required internship in the industry."**

USJ Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., adds that the new business management tracks will "help students to take advantage of opportunities in this region, which will, in turn, add value to their course work. And the combination will give them a head start in their careers."

Students will work closely with academic advisors in identifying both the business management tracks that particularly interest them, and potential internship opportunities that will provide on-the-ground, real world experience.

The courses can also serve to accelerate master's degree completion by allowing six credits to double-count toward fulfilling both bachelor's and master's degree requirements at USJ for an M.S. in Management, an aspect of a seamless process from undergraduate to graduate programs.

As Harvard Business Review recently pointed out, not-for-profits are dedicated to "doing good." But they also realize that "good intentions are no substitute for organization and leadership, for accountability, performance, and results. Those require management."

With a health care management focus, graduates may become health care executives in many medical settings, including hospitals, health insurance companies, and nursing homes. There certainly is no shortage of such facilities in the region, state, and nation; it is a field in need of individuals with passion and commitment coupled with know-how and talent.

"These are very dynamic leadership opportunities, with rigorous programs that provide a more strategic use of internships tied to the curriculum," Nussbaum adds. "Whether it is in the delivery systems related to health care, or providing leadership in sports management, or integrating marketing and business management, the tracks should develop distinctive student interests and cultivate real expertise."

USJ's Business Management degree program has achieved a solid track-record of preparing students to excel in the business world, with a commitment to academic excellence, quality mentorship, integrity and ethical practices, and reflecting aspirational leadership. The innovative new Business Management tracks hold the promise of expanding and extending the impact of USJ students in the business and not-for-profit communities, now and for years to come. 🏆





▲ Women of STEAM: (first row, L to R) Christina Alevras, Irene Guttilla Reed, Ph.D., Carol A. Millard, M.S., (middle row, L to R) Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D., Melissa Marcucci, Ph.D., (back row, L to R) Kirsten Martin, Ph.D., Jocelyn Mullins, Ph.D., and Catherine E. Hoyser, Ph.D.. Missing from this photo: Margery L. Lawrence, Ph.D., R.D..

# A Science and Humanities Connection Goes Full STEAM Ahead

By Elizabeth Marone '15

In recent years, many academic institutions have widened their focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to include the study of Arts — transforming STEM to STEAM. Like universities throughout the country, USJ has adopted this idea, originally proposed by former Rhode Island School of Design president, John Maeda.

In 2014, professors from USJ's School of Health and Natural Sciences proposed the STEAM group to their counterparts in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Determined to give students the most meaningful and effective program possible, professors from both schools chose to integrate the LEAD initiative — Lead, Empower, Advance, and Discover — with STEAM, creating the USJ Women LEAD in STEAM Group. With Kirsten Martin, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology, as chair, this group works to bridge the gap between the arts and sciences.

Additionally, participating professors aim to increase student research opportunities in STEAM fields, cultivate professional development to empower students within these areas, and perform outreach that encourages young women to consider STEAM-related careers. To meet these objectives, members of the USJ Women LEAD in STEAM Group are broadening the selection of summer research options for USJ students and continuing the Women LEAD in STEAM Speaker Series, which began this past spring.

Since its inception, the group's biggest contribution to the STEAM movement has been its outreach efforts. Under the direction of Christina Alevras, an instructor in the department of Biology, the USJ Women LEAD in STEAM Group is taking an active role in inspiring young women to pursue careers in STEAM.

To do this, in the spring of 2016 Alevras coordinated a series of USJ-based Saturday workshops for seventh and eighth grade girls who demonstrated interests in STEAM fields. From designing robotics to learning DNA extraction, USJ professors and students provided these Hartford-area students the chance to explore and expand their interests.

This outreach work continued with a summer program for Grace Academy students. Focusing on Anatomy and Physiology — while incorporating the study of art for healing and several visits to the Art Museum at USJ — students from the Hartford school received an introduction to a multitude of possible careers.

"The goal is to spark an interest and make STEAM careers an option for these young women," said Alevras. "We want to help them see all of these fields not as remote possibilities, but rather as ones that are here and now."

The collaboration between Grace Academy and the USJ Women LEAD in STEAM Group began in 2015, when Kirsten Martin and Catherine Hoyser,

Ph.D., professor of English and director of Women's Studies, developed a winter and spring workshop series on qualitative and quantitative observations through the use of nature journaling. The professors also developed and led an environmental science focused workshop series in the summer of 2015.

Bolstered by the success of their outreach and career preparation programs, participating professors are eager to expand USJ student involvement in the near future. Martin has seen aspects of STEAM create positive experiences for her students in the classroom already. Making humanities relevant in science, Martin has lessened many students' fears of subjects outside their major. With the integration of journaling and hands-on activities in Life Science courses, her non-Science students gained a renewed appreciation for the subject, while STEM students felt a matching appreciation for humanities.

"We want to help our students leave here not only knowledgeable, but empowered to take on leadership roles," said Martin. "If you are an English graduate working for a magazine and they hand you the science beat, we want you to feel confident in your abilities to articulate the material. Likewise, if you're a scientist and you need to speak to school children about your research, we want you to feel comfortable too." 📖



## Art Museum Earns Publication Awards, Reaches Professional Milestone

By Bernard L. Kavalier



The Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph won two First Place honors in the 2016 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Publication Awards, and first place recognition in the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Publications Design Competition. The winning publications were produced for *Pan American Modernism: Avant-Garde Art in Latin America and the United States*, which was shown in fall 2015.

AAM awarded the Family Guide first place in its Educational Resources category. The NEMA-honored materials were the Exhibition Announcement in the Invitations category and the Family Guide in the Education Publications, Materials & Kits category. NEMA, an association of more than 1,300 museum professionals and supporters who work together to strengthen and improve the museum field, received 201 publications for consideration from 63 museums, entered in 11 categories.

Museum Educator Waleska Santiago, working with Museum Director Ann Sievers, created the Family Guide — published in both Spanish and English versions. The Exhibition Announcement and the Family Guide were designed by Pam Howard of Firebrick Design, with support from a Public Presentation grant by CT Humanities. Organized by the Lowe Art Museum, University of Florida, the touring exhibition was circulated by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

The winning publications will be exhibited at the annual NEMA conference, to be held in Mystic in November and will be featured in a special section of the November/December issue of *New England Museums Now*. First place winning entries at the national level will be featured in the November/December Awards issue of AAM's *Museum* magazine.

"This year marked our first submission to these competitions, so we feel particularly honored to have been recognized by both our regional and national museum organizations," said Sievers. "The judges were very impressed with the creativity and caliber of submissions this year and it is an honor to be selected from among such distinguished museums."

Winners are chosen for their overall design excellence, creativity, and ability to express an institution's personality, mission, or special features.

In another milestone, the Art Museum has passed the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Core Documents Verification, reflecting a commitment to meeting high standards and best practices. Earning Core Documents Verification means that the national professional organization for the museum industry has verified — through a thorough expert review — that the museum has an educational mission, with ethics, planning, emergency, and

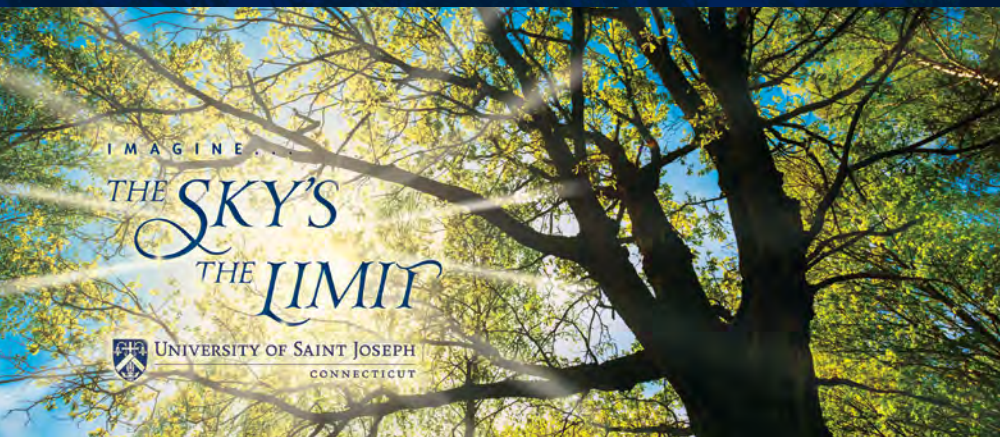
collections stewardship policies in place that reflect standard practices of professional museums.

By undertaking this outside review, the Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph has demonstrated it has in place the policies and plans that are essential to good museum management and that provide the structure, ethical grounding, and accountability needed to make informed and consistent decisions in support of the museum's mission.

"This not only confirms to donors and lenders of art that we operate according to professional standards," said Sievers. "It also supports our role as an academic museum that teaches students about the history and significance of museums and trains interns in museum practice." 📖

*The Art Museum, University of Saint Joseph is located in the Bruyette Athenaeum on the University's West Hartford campus. It houses a collection of over 2,000 paintings and works of art on paper and is open to the public. Details are available at [www.usj.edu/arts/art-museum](http://www.usj.edu/arts/art-museum)*





# IMAGINE ... THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION



▲ Photos from top center to bottom right: students and staff from Gengras Center School; past and current directors of the Gengras Center School (L to R): Glenn McGrath, Judith A. Carey, RSM, M'72, H'91, Ph.D., Michelle Lestrud, M.Ed., C.A.G.S., and Bernie Lindauer, Ph.D.; Emcee Denise D'Ascenzo, Channel 3 Eyewitness News anchor and host of "Advancing Medicine;" Presenter Governor Dannel P. Malloy; Sisters of Mercy (L to R): Suzanne N. Deliee, RSM; Patricia J. Rooney, RSM, '58, M '72; Elaine M. Sweeney, RSM, M'85, Ph.D.; Mary Frances McMahon, RSM, '55, C'72; President Rhona Free applauding efforts of USJ; The Gengras family: Betsy, Robert, Robyn, Jonathan, Edie, Board Chair Skip Gengras, Merrily Moynihan, Chip, Julia, and Ashley; Dancing to music by Shaded Soul



**GENGRAS CENTER SCHOOL**  
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

The University's sixth Gala celebration honored the Gengras Center School's 50th anniversary. During the evening, USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D., recognized the significant role the Gengras Center School has played in the lives of its own students, as well as those of USJ graduates, and noted the presence of individuals whose dedication through the years has had an enduring impact.

"As a special education lab school, the Gengras Center School supports research on innovative educational approaches. While it provides exceptional education for students with special needs, it is also a training ground for our University students."

The Director of the Gengras Center School, Michelle LeStrud, M.Ed., C.A.G.S., recognized the staff's tireless work: "If there's one thing our staff does more than anything else, it might be summed up in a single word: encourage. Our teachers encourage learning. Our therapists encourage progress. Our mission encourages service and responsibility. This is a school of optimism, understanding, caring, and — maybe most of all — encouragement."

E. Clayton "Skip" Gengras Jr., chair of the USJ Board of Trustees, reflected on the Center's remarkable and continuing legacy, saying, "At the Gengras Center School, success is measured not by its leaders doing extraordinary things, but by its staff doing ordinary things exceptionally well."



# A SPECIAL EDUCATION LANDMARK CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

By Elizabeth Marone '15



**For more than 50 years, the Gengras Center School has proven itself as a true pioneer in special education, setting the standard and consistently providing unparalleled services from an expert and devoted staff.**

As the first special education laboratory school in Connecticut, the Gengras Center School has remained a pacesetter in special education since its inception in 1965. Now drawing families with children aged 5-21 from more than 50 Connecticut and southern Massachusetts towns, the Center's skillful implementation of techniques, such as individual assessments, group instruction, behavioral intervention, artistic expression, and vocational training, has helped their students excel.

Throughout the Center's history, its graduates have gone on to jobs both within the University of Saint Joseph and in businesses in the greater community, ultimately demonstrating the effectiveness of the Gengras Center School's educational programming.

The Center's tradition of innovation began in the early 1960s, when it filled a void in special education. Clayton Gengras, an associate trustee of the University of Saint Joseph, took action after witnessing the work his cousin, J. Calvin Gengras, did for children with special needs. Pledging \$250,000 to the Center's construction on USJ's campus, Gengras began a project that would change Connecticut's special education services forever.

"What the Gengras Center School has done over these 50 years is always respond to the unmet needs that the district couldn't provide," said former Gengras director Judith A. Carey, RSM, Ph.D., DAA '16. "As the children became more complicated with multiple disabilities and challenging issues, Gengras had to be flexible, to make that adjustment, and to begin to provide for all types of children."

Since the dedication of the Gengras Center for Exceptional Children in December of 1965, the student body has grown to more than 135 students, and the original staff of seven has multiplied to include special education instructors, vocational teachers, job coaches, and more. To accommodate the growth, the Gengras Center School expanded in 2015 with the opening of the CARE (Center for Applied Research and Education) Building, which allows for greater Applied Behavioral Analysis services.

"The Gengras Center has accomplished so much in the field of special education in the past 50 years," remarked current director Michelle Lestrud, M.Ed., C.A.G.S.

A valued part of the USJ community, the relationship between the Gengras Center School and the University has always proven reciprocal. The Center's distinction has benefitted the University of Saint Joseph, which is proud to work with the laboratory school. Students from the University's Education, Social Work, Nursing, and Applied Behavioral Analysis programs have gained invaluable real-world experience in their chosen fields, completing observation,

student teaching, and field work requirements in the revolutionary school.

"In my 13 years as director, we trained hundreds of aspiring professionals to become the best teachers in just about all of our public and private schools across the state," said former Gengras director Bernie Lindauer, M.S., C.A.G.S., Ed.D. "We now have a family of educators that spread out all over Connecticut. Everywhere I go, I run into colleagues who are appreciative of the quality of the teachers we have consistently prepared."

Though the family grows and transforms, the relationships built within the Gengras Center School become strong bonds — a tradition that truly makes the school distinct.

"It's a great school and it is phenomenal programming," said Paul LoVoi, M.Ed., C.A.G.S., associate director of the Gengras Center. "But to me it's the relationships that are built, the relationships that are fostered, and the relationships that carry on post-graduate that are really what leave an imprint on me and hopefully leave an imprint on parents." 🌟

## SISTER ELIZABETH MCAULIFFE BRINGS EDUCATION EXPERTISE AND OPTIMISM TO USJ'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Bernard L. Kavalier

Elizabeth A. McAuliffe, RSN, is synonymous with education. Her life's work has addressed all points of the education continuum, teaching and leading students and teachers from pre-kindergarten to college. She has excelled at every juncture, and understandably gained a following among those whose careers she has influenced directly and by example.

Sister Betty, as she is affectionately and respectfully known, is the newest member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Saint Joseph.

Having earned a B.S. in Chemistry and Biology from Salve Regina University, an M.S.T. in Chemistry from the University of New Hampshire, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Pennsylvania State University, it became quite evident decades ago that Mercy institutions in particular, and education in general, were her calling.

Most recently the chair of the department of Education at Salve Regina University, this year she was asked to serve as Interim Dean of Academics.

She is a teacher at heart and an administrator in practice.

Sister Betty is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with colleagues on the USJ Board, and impressed with what she has witnessed thus far in the academic offerings and robust commitment to the mission of the institution.

"Higher education is challenging," she says, "but USJ has a rich heritage of strong programs. I look forward to helping to move that mission forward."

She describes herself as "recycled" at

Salve Regina, having returned to the institution to chair the Education department in 2013, after 18 years as the President of St. Mary Academy-Bay View, a Rhode Island Mercy school that serves girls from pre-K to grade 12. She taught at the high school and elementary school level, and spent just over a decade as an associate professor with tenure at Salve Regina in the late '80s and early '90s.

Sister Betty also spent six years on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Independent Schools Board, including three as Commission Chair, and served as an adjunct professor in Providence College's Catholic Leadership Program.

She is relentless in using her experience to guide and support those in her charge. At the core is a heartfelt delight in working with students.

**"There is a generosity in young people. They are eager to take action, and want to make a difference," she observes. The challenge, she points out, is to achieve sustainable change. By way of example, she explains that "service is not enough. We want our students not only to volunteer at soup kitchens, but also to come up with ways to alleviate hunger. At Mercy institutions, we work toward responding to the underlying causes in addition to responding to the immediate challenges. That's the bottom line."**

Reflecting on the fact that "the youngest, least experienced teachers are often placed in the toughest situations," Sister Betty

notes that other fields, such as business, medicine, and law, do just the opposite — placing their most experienced practitioners in the most challenging situations. That is a lot to ask of newly-minted teachers — but the vast majority rise to the occasion and excel, she indicates, adding that "we see huge growth in four years, as students shift from being students to being teachers."

Sister Elizabeth McAuliffe remains a devoted proponent of women's institutions, having recognized in her own career that all too often young girls who are "very articulate and outgoing" at the elementary school level begin to "clam up" in the middle school years.

In women's colleges, young women begin to "value their own voice, thinking process, and ability to be leaders," she points out. "Rather than silence themselves, they become more confident in speaking up and taking their place." With more varied career opportunities now on the horizon, that experience can be life changing.

"It is so encouraging to see them thrive," she says, reflecting an upbeat optimism for students whose education is imbued with Mercy values and driven by their own aspirations. "Education," she says emphatically, "is the most important work on the planet." 🌟







## Initiatives for Student Success Come Together, Connect Academic Achievement with Career Paths

By Bernard L. Kavalier

Following a summer of construction driven by a desire to bring an array of student services under one roof, the second floor of the Pope Pius XII Library is now seeing the finishing touches put on a new configuration and reinvigorated purpose.

Originally built in 1960, the library was updated in 1991 when renovations to the main reference room were completed, and in 2013, when the University's Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) was relocated to the library's second floor.

Now alongside the CAE will be the Academic Advisement Center, previously located in McDonough Hall, which provides individual advising to help students explore options for continued intellectual and professional development.

The third piece of the new student-centered grouping is the Career Development Center, also relocated from elsewhere on campus.

A Federal Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant is supporting the latest renovation.

In addition to its new location, the Career Development Center has a new director, Breton Boudreaux, who joined USJ during the summer.

Boudreaux is energized by the opportunity to promote career development at USJ, collaborate with colleagues to advance student success, and expand USJ's network of internships and roster of employers

seeking to hire graduates. He succeeds Stephen Seaward, who died earlier this year after a 12-year tenure leading the center.

Tami Devine Fagan '97, Ed.D., assistant provost for Student Success and Retention, points out that having the three components alongside each other, inside the library with all it has to offer, will create a synergy that will benefit students.

"We're looking to more directly connect coursework to career paths, enhance internship opportunities, and encourage students to seek those connections beyond the classroom," Fagan explained.

"One of our goals is to increase traffic both ways — students going out to internships and external experiences, as well as hosting programs and discussions with professionals from a variety of fields who come to our space to interact with students. We want students to expect to see potential employers here, to network, and hopefully see or hear something that is intriguing to them," Fagan said.

**As students meet with advisors to discuss majors, course selection, and academic performance, having a career-focused center just steps away will help to inform those decisions.**

"We'll have proximity and a comfortable place for students to enhance their academic work on campus and look ahead to their future." Fagan adds that increasing the depth and breadth of partnerships with employers will be an additional benefit of having Career Development alongside Academic Advisement and the CAE.

With the new configuration on the facility's second floor, library staff has been relocated to the first floor, and additional enhancements have been accomplished. Overall, the Pope Pius XII Library continues to grow as a comprehensive learning, research, and study center for faculty, staff, students, and local residents.

Linda Geffner, M.L.S., associate professor and library director, said "the librarians are excited about improvements to the public areas, including additional work tables and chairs in the book stacks and a dedicated 'quiet study' room. The children's literature collection and the curriculum materials are relocated nearer to the rest of the collections."

She added that "the library work area is fully renovated. An already collegial staff is looking forward to even closer collaboration."

Fagan noted that leadership opportunities for students, already a key component of CAE initiatives, will increase as the three programs settle into the contiguous space, benefitting students throughout their USJ experience and into meaningful, exceptional careers. 🏆

## Cultivating a Healthier Lifestyle: USJ Alumnae Give Back

By Elizabeth Marone '15



Witnessing the nation's obesity epidemic firsthand during a local internship inspired one University of Saint Joseph alumna to partner with doctors, professors, and friends to take an active role in combatting the problem in the Hartford area.

Mary Gollan, a dedicated member of the USJ community, graduated with her B.S. in Nutrition in 2014, completed the University's Dietetic Internship program in 2015, and is currently working on her master's degree at the institution.

Gollan's vision of using her passion to help others came into focus after her dietetic internship rotation at Collins Medical Group in West Hartford during the 2015 school year. There, she met Dr. Ishrat Quadri, who expressed an interest in building a community among her young patients who were dealing with obesity. Inspired by this idea, Gollan created the USJ Nutrition and Physical Fitness Camp with the help and support of USJ Nutrition professors and fellow USJ alumnae.

The only program of its kind in the Hartford area, this annual one-week camp was conducted for the first time in June 2015 on the USJ campus to educate campers on healthy living through proper nutrition and exercise. From Zumba and yoga to swimming and basketball, the mornings are packed with movement before campers utilize the University's Nutrition Lab to prepare lunch in the afternoons. Each team cooks that day's meal at their own

kitchen station, followed by a session on nutrition and healthy living, given by associate professor of Nutrition, Margery Lawrence, Ph.D., R.D., and Dietetic Internship Director, Elizabeth Tenison, M.S., R.D.

Fellow USJ alumnae, Zoe Allard '14 and Patrice Hayes '14, who have assisted Gollan with the camp since its inception, are licensed fitness instructors. Together, they ensure that campers learn how to exercise safely — from thorough warm-ups to proper form.

**"The takeaway from camp is that exercise is not a chore and should not be exhausting," says Allard. "We try to give them a good taste of everything throughout the week."**

Though campers enjoy the exercise, their favorite activity is cooking because each small group is in charge of their own experience. While counselors — some of whom are current USJ Nutrition majors — prepare the food portions every morning, campers take the initiative to follow recipes or learn to cook through trial and error.

"Seeing them take on their roles is my favorite part," says Hayes. "At home, it can be hard for them because they might not have a lot of control in the kitchen. But, here, they feel like they can cook and they recognize that it's not as hard as it looks."

With the freedom to experiment comes a variety of unique dishes, which adds to their fun. "I like how every team's food comes out differently," said 13-year-old Franny. "Everyone makes things in different ways."

In every aspect of camp, the counselors' creativity results in an exciting week for the campers, who tackle each day's activities with excitement and energy. As a result, despite the newness of the camp, its reputation among campers and their families is positive.

Mirnesa Gollan, whose son Joseph was new to the camp this year, explains that the program encourages her son to cook more at home. "It's making an impact; he's making a lot of progress." She adds, "I will definitely bring him back next year." Several parents did exactly that, with six of this year's 18 campers returning from last year.

Making exercise and cooking fun and accessible, the week-long Nutrition and Fitness Camp, along with Mary's determination to help the younger generation secure a healthier future, is changing the lives of these local children.

"Campers ate exotic fruits and vegetables and pushed themselves, physically, to a whole new level," Mary says. "Many of the campers started the week as picky eaters who barely exercised but, by the end, they were excited to eat new foods and we could not get them to stop running around." 🏆



# Campus Snapshots



**WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE** *Standing In Your Authority: Mastering Doubt & Taking Risks* was the theme of the Connecticut ACE Women's Network (CTAWN) conference hosted by USJ on April 1. CTAWN is an informal network of women administrators, faculty, and others associated with supportive of higher education in the state of Connecticut. Speakers included Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., provost; Kathleen Barrett, Ed.D., associate professor of Counseling and Applied Behavioral Studies; and Wanda Warshauer, CTAWN State Coordinator-elect, chair of ACE's Connecticut Chapter, and associate director of Graduate Admissions at USJ.



**MONTH OF DANCE** USJ hosted four innovative, dynamic, and inspiring dance events during a "Month of Dance" in April that invited audiences to share the personal experiences of a veteran, a refugee, sanitation workers, and students. Each heartfelt, emotional story was showcased in a performance that resonated with audiences and provided distinct and moving evenings of unique, thoughtful entertainment. The final performance in the series was by the USJ Dance Ensemble.

THE **AUTORINO**  
**CENTER**  
FOR THE **ARTS**  
AND HUMANITIES  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH



**SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE** USJ is hosting the sixth volume of *The Saint John's Bible* through August 2017. The first hand-written, illuminated, and monumental Bible produced by a Benedictine abbey since the 15th century, the seven-volume Bible was commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University in 1998. The volume, currently on display in the Pope Pius XII Library, is the subject of a yearlong lecture series given by professors, including Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, M.Ed.



**DECISION 2016** USJ held Decision 2016 on Sept. 26, the evening of the first Presidential debate. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford, the event began with an expert panel discussion and a question-and-answer session with the audience, followed by a viewing of the debate. Beforehand, students had the opportunity to ensure their voices will be heard in the upcoming election thanks to a student-run voter registration table.



**SHAKESPEARE** Capital Classics Theatre Company returned to campus for the annual Shakespeare Festival in July. The company brought Shakespeare's *Othello* from the page to the stage, enthralled audiences who gathered on campus with friends and picnic dinners. The production ran from July 14-31 and continued Capital Classic's tradition of making the playwright's 400-year-old work accessible to modern fans.



**CONVOCATION** The 2016-2017 academic year began with Convocation on Sept. 1. Faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Connor Chapel of Our Lady to officially welcome the freshman class to campus. Among the day's speakers was the winner of the 2016 Reverend John J. Stack Excellence in Teaching Award, Mark Zelinsky, Ph.D., associate professor of English in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and chair of the English Department, who shared insightful remarks that earned a standing ovation.



**MUSIC & MOVIES** The Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at USJ made family fun local and affordable this past summer with its free Family Summer Music and Movie Series. Taking place on the Center's lawn, the series – free for all due to generous underwriting from Aetna – featured films (including *The LEGO® Movie*) and live entertainment (including the Survivors Swing Band) on consecutive Tuesday evenings from June 14-July 5.



**MISS CONGENIALITY** Allison Owsianko '17, a Child Study major and Psychology minor at the University of Saint Joseph, competed in the 2016 Miss Connecticut pageant on June 17-18 at Mohegan Sun. Owsianko, as Miss Forestville, was selected by her peers as Miss Congeniality, a reflection of her accomplishment at the pageant.



# USJ SOCCER TAKES ON CHALLENGES

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH  
**BLUEJAYS**



The University of Saint Joseph Blue Jays are a young soccer team energetically and enthusiastically playing through a season of highs and lows that has featured strong comebacks and disappointing defeats. The 18 player roster of student athletes includes seven freshmen, seven sophomores, and four juniors. There are no seniors on the squad. Soccer coach Kelly Shimmin is in her second season leading the Blue Jays. Assistant coaches Tori Sousa and Lindsey Cifaldi '16 are both in their first year. The team's season has included back-to-back shut out wins, a double overtime tie, and began with a season opening 2-1 victory at Manhattanville.

## NEW ATHLETIC COACHES



**Karen Piazza**, appointed **head tennis coach** in April 2016, is in the midst of her first season at USJ. For the past six years, she worked as a teaching pro at the Tennis and Fitness Center of Rocky Hill. In addition to implementing and conducting a wide array of programs there, she has also coached in programs for the Parks and Recreation Departments in Portland and Berlin, Conn.

"My objective is to create in each student athlete a unique sense of determination, pride, and accomplishment," said Piazza. "I am committed to using all of my knowledge and abilities to develop each player to their potential."

### TENNIS Karen Piazza

**Brandon Gade**, a native of Wallingford, Conn., was named the sixth **head women's basketball coach** in USJ history. He joins the Blue Jays after spending the previous season as an assistant coach at Manhattan College. With a total of seven years of coaching experience, Gade has also served in positions at Yale University, Albertus Magnus College, and his alma mater, the University of Connecticut.

"Our student athletes are passionate and diligent and, as a coach, I strive to make sure they remain unified through the good and the bad," said Gade. "I try to instill in them the idea that working hard on a daily basis and being persistent will always lead to success."

### BASKETBALL Brandon Gade



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# ALUMNI NEWS

## Seizing Opportunity, Achieving Impact, Improving Lives:

Charlene Russell-Tucker's Insistent  
Commitment to Connecticut's Children



**"Where can you have the most impact  
and influence to make a difference?"**

It is that question, and an unrelenting determination to "finding and fulfilling your life's purpose," that has led Charlene Russell-Tucker '85 from the classrooms of USJ to Chief Operating Officer, one of the most prominent positions among the leaders of Connecticut's State Department of Education (SDE).

Russell-Tucker recalls vividly transferring to Saint Joseph College from Greater Hartford Community College back in the 1980s, after relocating with her family from Jamaica to Hartford. She earned a B.S. in Nutrition, and was "truly prepared" to accept a job offer which came, in fact, even before graduation day.



"I walked at commencement one day, and began work the next," Russell-Tucker recalled. Her position was with the Community Renewal Team (CRT) in Hartford, as nutrition coordinator for the Head Start program, working closely with children and their families. It was precisely what she aspired to do, and she did not hesitate to jump in with both feet.

"It was a great start in a community setting. What I loved about nutrition, in school and since, is the community aspect. It gives you a plethora of things you can do that can really impact a family." Even as decades passed and her career has advanced, the commitment to furthering nutrition — and health in general — has remained ever-present.

To this day, she urges students to explore how they can have an impact. "Saint Joseph's emphasis on experiences in clinical settings, in the community, and in different sectors, provides great exposure to different career options. It sets the frame for your future, seeing and learning firsthand from professionals in the field."

Her work at CRT quickly began to include managing a federal nutrition program administered through SDE. She even convinced her boss that the position — part-time when she was hired — needed to be full-time in order to respond to the needs of participating children. During the summer, she worked with another federally funded nutrition program with SDE.

When a Department colleague reached retirement, Russell-Tucker was tapped to fill the vacancy. She has been there, steadily moving up the administrative ladder, for three decades. Her early career demonstrated the importance of networking, seizing opportunities, and being relentless in seeking to do meaningful work that would improve lives.

Convinced that serving in administrative positions could expand her contribution to furthering children's development and success, she earned a master of Science degree in Management from Albertus Magnus College, and steadily progressed to positions of Bureau Chief, Associate Commissioner of Education, and Chief Operating Officer for the SDE. She joined the faculty at Albertus Magnus as an adjunct instructor, and continues to teach.

She has become a "student of management and leadership," concluding that, "you lead from your sphere of influence. If achieving student success is the goal," she stresses, "one must identify what are the critical pieces. Physical, mental, and emotional health including nutrition, parental engagement, and diversity and equity are each part of the answer."

As Chief Operating Officer, Russell-Tucker has the opportunity to lead major department initiatives, often spearheading cross-agency collaboration, breaking down traditional silos that would otherwise limit progress. She simultaneously serves as Division Chief for the Department's Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness. Often, she develops partnerships with external organizations and jurisdictions, many of them community-based. Her initiatives now have a "broader frame," but the grounding is unchanged.

She has never lost touch with her early vision, forged at Saint Joseph. Well-respected and sought after for her expertise, enthusiasm, and thoughtful leadership, she sees the big picture and the small details in equal relief, and navigates both to achieve progress. Her career gives testimony to her talent for leveraging the inter-connectedness of the social, emotional, physical, and

mental health of students and their families as foundations for positive school and life outcomes.

Russell-Tucker is co-chair, for example, of the Strategic Action Group on Chronic Absenteeism. She has served as president of the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and is a member of the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has even managed a work-life balance, reflected in her music as a gospel recording artist and motivational speaker, as well as her involvement in community organizations, including her church community.

Of her varied efforts in the top echelon of SDE, Russell-Tucker points out that the issues she tackles are "very rarely disconnected." It often comes down to "how do you work across sectors and agencies, to maximize student outcomes." The state's challenges are well-known, from the achievement gap to funding formulas to court decisions, but Russell-Tucker is confident that diligent and coordinated efforts can edge the state closer to attaining success for each and every student.

"I spend much of my time on efforts to remove non-academic barriers to learning — all the factors critical to student success," relates Russell-Tucker. "The role of schools is teaching and learning. But barriers outside the schoolhouse doors can lead to students who are not ready to learn. So we forge partnerships, and develop a presence in the community."

"I'm passionate about all of this," she stresses, not at all hesitant to "give credit to my education at Saint Joseph." A commitment to finding ways to make a difference firmly took hold and hasn't diminished or wavered in all the years since. 🙏



# 2016 REUNION

CELEBRATING CLASSES ENDING IN 1 & 6

"I attend reunion to see my classmates and enjoy the campus. It gives me the chance to relive a very happy time in my life."

- Concetta Magno Brokowski '71

"The most meaningful experience for me was Dorothy Keller's presentation. Since she is such a remarkable teacher with endless enthusiasm, she made time fly; I felt like I was back in college, enjoying her teaching, interested in the topic, and challenged."

- Joanne Rees Kaczor '76

"I enjoyed mass, Dorothy Keller's morning lecture, and the wonderful introduction to The Saint John's Bible."

- Laura Baione Hayden '71

"I liked getting to talk to current students and younger alumni, both about their time at the college and their plans for the future."

- Stephanie Bolduc '06, M'08

◀ Photos from top to bottom: Johanne Kiertz Walworth '66; Members from the Class of 1966 after Reunion Breakfast with President Free in the Crystal Room; Donna Mulhearn English '86, M'89, Pam Bonaventura DeAngelo '86, Pam Annatone Beebe '86, and Susan Girolomoni '86; Elizabeth Horton '51 and Furita Delatore Colavecchio '51; Christine Salerni Marotta '91 and Desiree Sweeney '91; Alumni enjoying a lecture on The Saint John's Bible by Dorothy Keller, M'85, C'97, M.Ed.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, October 27**

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**The Mark Twain House Presents: Graveyard Shift Ghost Tours**

Mark Twain House

**Saturday, November 5**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Springfield Museums Bus Trip with Professor Dorothy Bosch Keller M'85, C'97, DAA'99**

Springfield Museums

**Wednesday, November 9**

12:05 p.m.

**Chapel Bells Mass**

The Connor Chapel of Our Lady

**Tuesday, November 15**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Dr. Judith Perkins Book Lecture: Early Christian and Jewish Narrative**

Crystal Room, Mercy Hall

**Thursday, November 17**

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Spiritual Anticipation: The Advent Season in The Saint John's Bible talk by Professor Dorothy Keller M'85, C'97, DAA'99**

Second Floor AV Room, Bruyette Athenaeum

**Sunday, December 4**

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Festival of Lights**

The Connor Chapel of Our Lady

Please visit [www.usj.edu/alumni/events](http://www.usj.edu/alumni/events) for the most updated list of events. Keep an eye out for information on wine tastings, a legacy brunch, and a Red Sox trip in the spring of 2017.

For more information, please contact Katie DaSilva '15 at **860.231.5364** or [kdasilva@usj.edu](mailto:kdasilva@usj.edu).

"I have always believed, based on the strong faith instilled in me by my parents, that if you apply yourself, good things will happen," Russell-Tucker explains. "If you're looking to make a difference, always look for opportunities. What's the next step to fulfill your purpose?"



## 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.

### 1957

**Rose Marie Galiardi O'Dea** is currently working as the part-time secretary at St. Isaac Jogues Church in East Hartford.

### 1959

**Barbara Flinn** and fellow USJ alumnae attended a tea on Cape Cod where they were delighted to meet President Rhona Free, Ph.D.

### 1962

**Maryann Cosgrove Healey** retired from teaching this year after a dedicated career.

### 1966

**Patty Cook, RSM, Th.D. (M)**, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of earning her master's degree in Theology from USJ. She also volunteered on a medical trip to Haiti in the spring of 2016 and served as a tour host on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**Rose Amodeo Petronella** published *Honoring the Soul: Mandalas for Inspiration and Insight*.

### 1968

**Susan Conti Root** celebrated her 46th wedding anniversary at Lake George in May. She also enjoyed a family trip to the USJ campus when her son and his family visited from Phoenix, Ariz. in July.

### 1972

**Geraldine (Gerri) Roberts, Esq., DAA'85** and **Ann-Margaret Anselmo, Ph.D., '46, DAA'13** met for breakfast after many years and enjoyed reminiscing.



### 1975

**Lois A. Luddy M'83** is currently volunteering at Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center after retiring from teaching in Hartford Public Schools.

### 1978

**Ann Marie O'Neil Davoren** is enjoying her time with her grandson, Michael Patrick Thomas.



### 1980

**Deborah Dowling Mulhal** was named Principal of St. Mary Magdalen School in Oakville, Conn.

### 1983

**Clara LeSage O'Brien** is a proud mother to her 19-year-old triplets who completed their first year of college in May.

### 1985

**Michele Confessore M'93**, vice president of the Alumni Council, is officially an empty nester. She and her husband, Tim, celebrated the recent graduation of their son Gregory from Wentworth Institute of Technology on August 21, 2016. Their daughter Caitlyn graduated from Siena College in 2014.

### 1989

**C. Alison Burns** became global head of customer and partner learning at Nokia in January 2016.

### 1990

**Mary P. Mitchell M'94, DAA'12** added a new accomplishment to her impressive career: co-authoring the book, *History of Weatogue*. The book's launch was celebrated at the Simsbury Historical Society in September 2016.

### 1992

**Christine L. Shapter, M.D.** was accepted into the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Conn.

### 1997

**Kimberly Lounder Esler** retired to spend more time with her sons after 20 years of teaching Spanish and French in Wallingford, Conn.

### 2004

**Michelle O'Connell** earned a promotion.

### 2005

**Alisa Dzananovic Sisic** received the Creating Opportunities Leadership Award from the YWCA Hartford Region in January 2016.

### 2006

**Samantha Cahill Slade** was recently hired as director of advancement & marketing at the Center for Latino Progress in Hartford, Conn.

**Tamara Smith Womack M'11** helped deliver 200 cases of bottled water in Flint, Mich. to aid the ongoing water crisis.



### 2007

**Jessica Hodorski Gueniat** was appointed library director at the Torrington Library in March.

### 2011

**Tanya Carter** currently serves as an active member of Bristol Hospital's Skin Care Committee after becoming a board-certified medical-surgical nurse in 2014.

### 2012

**Kayla Cruz M'14** is happily building a career as a third-grade teacher.

**Jahana Hayes (M)**, a history teacher at John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, Conn., was named Connecticut Teacher of the Year in October 2015 and National Teacher of the Year in April 2016.

**Kelly Shea M'14** completed the Literacy Internship through USJ and earned a teaching position in her internship's district. She was elected president of the South Windsor Jaycees for the 2016-17 year before spending the summer of 2016 traveling to the Netherlands, Iceland, Thailand, and Cambodia.

### 2015

**Caitlin Kent** published her work, "Regulation of epithelial – mesenchymal transition in endometrial cancer: connecting PI3K, estrogen signaling, and microRNAs," with Irene Reed, Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology at USJ.

### 2016

**Amanda Crocker** is working as a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital after graduating in May.

**Jo-Mari Lopez** is working as head teacher at Cheshire Nursery School, a nature-based learning program.

**Jackie Steeves** was hired in the accounting department at Honda of Manchester.

## WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

**Kimberly Joy Maron '04, M'06** wed Charles Anthony Wolfe on October 2, 2016 in Southington, Conn. She will earn her master's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Business Analytics from Central Connecticut State University this December.



**Krysten Marotta, Pharm.D. '14** earned a promotion and recently became engaged.

**Hannah Watkins '14** married William March on June 25, 2016. Fellow USJ alumnae **Jessie Hawthorn '13** and **Elizabeth Marone '15** shared in her day as bridesmaids, while **Leanna Verch '14** was also in attendance.

**Seshauna Rubie '16** became a college graduate and a bride-to-be on May 7, 2016, when her boyfriend, CJ Chambers, proposed to her at the USJ Commencement Ceremony.



▲ July 3, 2016. Unveiling of Mayor Antonina Uccello Street in Canicattini Bagni Sicily. Standing in front of sign are Jacquie Gustafson, Mayor Amenta, and David Gustafson.

## Ann Uccello Street in Hartford – and Sicily

Former Hartford Mayor **Ann Uccello '44** has a well-traveled street in Connecticut's capital city named in her honor, and now a street in her ancestral homeland of Sicily has provided similar recognition. This past summer, officials in the small community of Canicattini Bagni, about 120 miles from Palermo, renamed the street where her father was born for the political trailblazer who became the first woman in the United States elected mayor of a capital city. Uccello was elected in 1967 and re-elected two years later, and was the first female mayor of a Connecticut municipality. Canicattini Mayor Paolo Amenta unveiled the street signs with the help of author Paul Pirrotta of Hartford, who recently wrote Uccello's biography. Now 94, the former mayor did not make the trip, but her nephew Dave Gustafson of West Hartford, and his wife Jacquie, were among those on hand for the historic occasion. Uccello was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 1999. 🏡



# Saluting American Warriors for Their Service and Sacrifice

By Bernard L. Kavalier



American Warrior is a non-profit organization, based in Connecticut, dedicated to providing veterans, particularly those who served in World War II, with honor and closure by arranging for them to travel to Washington, D.C. to witness “their Memorial.”

For Roselee Barbagallo Fanelli ’61, M’66, DAA’11 accompanying veterans from Connecticut as a “guardian” on four flights has been “the most humbling experience I’ve ever had. It is a wonderful way to say thank you, to give back to amazing people responsible for what we have as Americans.”

Fanelli, a well-known realtor in Northwest Connecticut, vividly remembers each flight she has participated on. To date, nearly 1,000 WWII veterans have flown with American Warrior on a mission that honors “patriotism, sacrifice, volunteerism and freedom.” About 100 fill each flight. Sponsors provide funds to ensure that veterans incur no costs; guardians pay to cover the cost of travel. Boxed lunches are provided, as are wheelchair-friendly buses to move the group while in D.C.

Upon boarding, the group is welcomed “very respectfully” by the plane’s pilot, and water cannons greet the flight as it lands at Reagan National Airport. Airport personnel with “huge American flags” are out in force. “You could have heard a pin drop as we taxied down the runway. Everyone was so overcome.”

As the group disembarked, “the outpouring of gratitude from all the people in the terminal was overwhelming. The warriors were so poised, but I was totally overcome. I lost it. It was truly remarkable. We were all just blown away. What an extraordinary salute to their service.”

She fondly recalls the veterans she has accompanied. On her first flight, in May 2009, her “warriors” were Walter, who served in the Pacific Theatre, and Jim, who fought in the European Theatre. Her second flight, later that year, she had the honor of accompanying Andy and Richard. Two years later, she flew again, assigned to support four veterans, Bernie, Ralph, Bill, and Corney. Last year, in May, Fanelli had the privilege of accompanying Duncan Denny and Ed Kelley, longtime Norfolk friends, on the American Warriors flight.

Fanelli, whose husband Nick is a retired Colonel and a proud veteran of three decades, first became associated with the American Warrior initiative through her daughter, Laura, who previously worked for Connecticut’s Lieutenant Governor and the State Legislature, where she met then-State Rep. Christopher Coutu, who was putting together the initiative.

Fanelli explains that guardians are trained on their responsibilities for flight day, and have an opportunity to meet with and get to know the individuals they’ll be accompanying. They learn about their individual histories and needs and meet family members.

At the airport, the USO was on hand, a band played patriotic music, and an announcement was made of their arrival throughout the terminal. Even at a bustling airport, people stop, salute, and applaud their arrival. “It is amazing the number of people who turn out. You’re gonna cry, it’s so moving. You can’t help it.”

The warriors and their guardians board waiting buses for the quick trip from the airport to the Memorials. The World War II Memorial is the first stop.

“At the Memorial, the veterans go to the section that represents where they served in the war.” There, they stand in reverence, recalling their service, and the sacrifice of comrades. The buses then move the group to the Navy or Air Force Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, or Korean War Memorial, depending on the service of those in that particular group.

It is a moving day, exhausting and exhilarating, touching and timeless.

Arriving back at Bradley International Airport, a local fife and drum corps welcomes the parade of heroes back to the Constitution State. American flags are held high by those on hand.

“The veterans get very quiet. They are visibly and deeply moved,” Fanelli recalls. Many say “this has been one of the greatest days of my life.”

Fanelli describes her participation much the same way. She has made small scrapbooks highlighting the day and presented them to each of those she served, as remembrances of their enduring contributions as American Warriors.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

<b>VIRGINIA FERGUSON MURPHY C’36</b> March 8, 2016	<b>RITA VAILLANCOURT REAGAN ’51</b> August 29, 2016	<b>JEAN HOM KONG ’71</b> August 4, 2016
<b>CATHERINE H. VARGAS ’37</b> July 3, 2016	<b>MARY SEYMOUR RICE ’53</b> May 27, 2016	<b>DOLORES A. CROWLEY, RSM, M’72, M’80 (SISTER DANIEL MARY)</b> May 11, 2016
<b>MARGUERITE A. RILEY ’38, DAA’90</b> May 3, 2016	<b>MARY ANN RILEY HARVILL ’54</b> July 29, 2016	<b>NANCY J. KONOPACKE ’73</b> April 28, 2016
<b>ELIZABETH HANLON BEEBE ’39</b> March 14, 2016	<b>FRANCES SCULLY RIENDEAU ’54</b> February 23, 2016	<b>VIRGINIA PUCILLO RIORDAN ’74</b> November 23, 2015
<b>ANITA CALLAHAN FOX ’44</b> June 29, 2016	<b>M. JANE RYAN ’54, DAA’12</b> July 8, 2016	<b>MARGARET LAWRENCE DANIELS ’76</b> November 28, 2015
<b>ELIZABETH LEWIS ’44, DAA’08</b> December 8, 2015	<b>SUSAN HARRISON CARROLL ’56</b> November 21, 2015	<b>MARIE CHRISTEL SCHOLL, RSM, ’78, M’93</b> August 30, 2016
<b>MARY MCCORMACK THOMPSON ’44</b> August 12, 2016	<b>BETSY SISBOWER BUSH ’58</b> May 21, 2016	<b>AUDREY CLARK BURKE ’80</b> December 3, 2015
<b>BARBARA REGAN SMITH ’45, M’73</b> December 10, 2015	<b>MARGARET NAGLE LEONARD ’58</b> April 11, 2016	<b>KATHLEEN A. BROWN-ZURA ’81</b> June 24, 2016
<b>CATHERINE FRANK THOMAS ’45</b> June 29, 2016	<b>MARGARET O’NEILL HALLISEY ’59</b> April 26, 2016	<b>MARY ANN STEBLIN TOZZO ’81</b> November 2, 2015
<b>REGIS FITZMORRIS CHARPENTIER ’46</b> April 29, 2016	<b>IRENE DANAHER, RSM ’62 (SISTER MARY ARTHUR)</b> December 1, 2015	<b>CYNTHIA A. BAIO-LARUE ’82, M’87</b> March 4, 2016
<b>LORRAINE ABBOTT MOLLOY ’46, P’79, P’07</b> January 8, 2016	<b>BEATRICE COLLINS LAROCHE ’64</b> December 10, 2015	<b>CATHERINE M. DERBY ’82</b> February 17, 2016
<b>MARGARET E. CAMPBELL ’47</b> July 17, 2016	<b>KATHLEEN HICKEY ARECCHI ’65</b> February 5, 2016	<b>JOAN SCIARRINO KENNEDY ’82</b> August 31, 2016
<b>LOUISE MARINO DIGIRONIMO ’47</b> August 29, 2016	<b>PAUL L. BOBINSKI C’66</b> December 16, 2015	<b>MIRIAM D. SELMAN M’83</b> June 17, 2016
<b>JEANNE LAMBERT WALKER ’47</b> August 13, 2016	<b>DONALD J. CARUTH M’67</b> July 15, 2016	<b>JUDITH MCKEE KNOTT M’87</b> September 4, 2016
<b>KATHLEEN WALTER HART ’48, P’89</b> March 30, 2016	<b>NADIA LISOVITCH DEUTSCH M’68</b> February 27, 2016	<b>VIRGINIA M. GIBSON M’91</b> April 17, 2016
<b>ELEANORE PATRICIA WENTWORTH JOHNSON ’49</b> April 21, 2016	<b>MARY JANE CARD, RSM ’69 (SISTER MARIA GERMAINE)</b> November 28, 2015	<b>JOSEPH WEI M’94</b> April 21, 2016
<b>LOIS-JEAN DAY DION-ROBERTS ’50, M’70</b> January 31, 2016	<b>CONCETTA T. SPAGNA-CZACZKES ’70</b> December 12, 2015	<b>WENDY LACHS ENNIS M’07</b> January 20, 2016
<b>JEAN FAGAN SISK ’50</b> February 15, 2016	<b>WILMA KIMMERLE DITERS C’71</b> January 22, 2016	

The next Chapel Bells Mass will be on November 9, 2016. If you learn of a recently deceased alumna/us, please contact Rita Bayer, stewardship coordinator, at 860.231.5462 or rbayer@usj.edu.





Pictured left to right: Nancy Roath '72, JoAnn Price, Madelyn Lankton, Patti LaMonica, and Sheila Hartnett '74

By Maggie Pinney '95, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

There was a time when it was unusual for a woman to move from middle management to the top echelons of an organization. And while it is no longer rare, it remains, distressingly, far from the norm.

University of Saint Joseph President Rhona Free, Ph.D., and Board of Trustees Vice Chair **Marty Gervasi '83** were discussing this topic last spring and became determined to bring the resources of USJ to bear on improving the status quo.

Through the efforts of a committee of talented alumni, faculty, and friends of the University, the University of Saint Joseph **Women's Leadership Development Center (WLDC)** was created.

With a mission to encourage, empower, and coach women for leadership roles, the WLDC will provide workshops, training, and courses for women (and men) who need to develop skills to advance in their careers.

We hear that women need to "lean-in," pushing harder in their careers, but evidence shows that having and using business, financial, and technical skills are just as important in moving up. The WLDC will provide opportunities

for women to acquire these skills and support related research.

The Center's research will also be aimed at better understanding the reasons women are not reaching senior management/leadership positions. That research will inform program initiatives for the Center.

The University of Saint Joseph launched this exciting new initiative in October with an interactive program entitled **Working to Elevate Women to the C-Suite**. The panel included women who have achieved extraordinary levels of success in the business world and who are also deeply committed to helping other women advance in their careers:

- **Sheila Hartnett '74**, Senior Advisor, former business owner & Chairman/CEO of Geometry Global
- **Patti LaMonica**, Executive Director of Emergency Medicine and Prehospital Service Line, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
- **Madelyn Lankton**, Executive Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Enterprise Operations and eBusiness, Travelers
- **JoAnn Price**, Co-founder/Managing Partner, Fairview Capital

The panel was moderated by **Nancy Roath '72**, Co-Founder & Senior Director of Future 5, Stamford, former Vice President of Brand & Product Marketing, IBM Corporation. **Marty Gervasi '83**, Chief Human Resource Officer at The Hartford, provided closing remarks.

Those attending had an opportunity to benefit from the collective expertise and experience of the panelists and to ask questions about career paths, challenges, and solutions for advancing in business. The evening concluded with a networking reception sponsored by Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

We are particularly energized by the potential of the **Women's Leadership Development Center at the University of Saint Joseph**, and the value it can provide to women on campus and in the community. This potential was evident from the outset with the inaugural convening, and we welcome your involvement and recommendations as we move forward. ☛



## The USJ Fund



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